

11-10-2006

The Bison, November 10, 2006

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/thebison>

Recommended Citation

The Bison, November 10, 2006. (2006). Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/thebison/1706>

This Newspaper is brought to you for free and open access by the Archives and Special Collections at Scholar Works at Harding. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Bison by an authorized administrator of Scholar Works at Harding. For more information, please contact scholarworks@harding.edu.



HARDING
U N I V E R S I T Y

THROUGH THE LENS

Bison photographer Craig Rainbolt captures the autumn countryside of White County.
PAGE 8a



President Burks' Contract Extended Five Years

ANDREA THORNTON
assistant news editor

The Board of Trustees announced Sunday that they have voted to extend President David B. Burks' contract until 2013.

The board announced the unanimous decision at its semi-annual meeting Oct. 27.

Burks is the fourth president in Harding's 82-year history. He succeeded current Chancellor, Clifton L. Ganus, in 1987.

"The board feels that Dr. Burks has done a tremendous job as president and feels strongly that he should continue as president for many years in the future,"

Chairman of the Board Don Shores said. "We are pleased to extend his contract until he reaches age 70 in 2013. We greatly value the leadership he has provided at Harding as president for the past 20 years."

Under Burks' administration, Harding has "experienced unprecedented growth," Shores said. Enrollment has more than doubled, more than \$124 million has gone to the construction or renovation of facilities, endowment has grown from \$22 million to \$103 million, five international programs were added (Australia, Chile, England, France and Greece)

and campuses in North Little Rock and Bentonville, Ark. were established.

Burks said that while he is grateful for the extension, he sees it as a "non-event."

"It's really not a huge change," Burks said. "If you go back 20 years, it was fairly standard for people to retire at age 65, and that's no longer true — it's not true for faculty members; it's not true for administrators ... I'll be 64 in May... And the concern is am I going to retire next year or not, and the board asked me to stay on until I'm 70. And I basically said, if my health is OK, then that's what

"The board feels that Dr. Burks has done a tremendous job as president and feels strongly that he should continue as president for many years in the future. We greatly value the leadership he has provided at Harding as president for the past 20 years."

DON SHORES
chairman of the board of trustees

I'll try to do."

Burks said nothing is set in stone, but the general expectation is he will continue in his present position until 2013.

see BURKS page 3A



CRAIG RAINBOLT/The Bison

Administrative assistant to the President Nate Copeland and Dr. David Burks walk to chapel Nov. 7. The Board of Trustees announced Sunday that Burks' contract will be extended until 2013.

Democrats Take Control Of House



Searcy Mayor Belinda LaForce and city clerk/treasurer Tammy Gowan talk with freshmen Alex Reed and Meredith Harrison at LaForce's campaign watch party in downtown Searcy Nov. 7. LaForce will face Republican Dale Brewer in a run-off election on Nov. 28.

ELECTION RESULTS

US Congress

- District 01
- Marion Berry (D)
- District 02
- Vic Snyder (D)
- District 03
- John Boozman (R)
- District 04
- Mike Ross (D)

Governor

Mike Beebe (D)

Lieutenant Governor

Bill Halter (D)

Attorney General

Dustin McDaniel (D)

Secretary of State

Charlie Daniels (D)

White County Judge

- Run off
- Michael Lincoln (R)
- Dennis Gilliam (I)

White County Sheriff

Ricky Shourd (R)

Mayor

- Run off
- Belinda LaForce (D)
- Dale Brewer (R)

Run off elections will be held November 28, 2006.

Uncertified results from www.ARelections.org

Tuesday's Elections Shift Power As Democrats Take The Lead At The Polls

BRETT KELLER
student reporter

Election Day brought changes in power across the nation. In Washington, D.C. the Democrats took control of the House of Representatives and eased into an apparent lead in the Senate on razor-thin margins in contested races at press time.

In the House, Democrats gained at least 29 seats, establishing a clear majority according to CNN. As of Wednesday night, Democrats controlled 229 seats, Republicans 196 seats and 10 races were undecided.

The results of the two closest

Senate races, in Montana and Virginia, were still unclear on Wednesday. On Wednesday CNN reported Democrat Jim Webb leading Republican Senator George Allen by 7,200 votes in Virginia.

The Associated Press called the race in favor of Webb on Wednesday night, but other news services such as CNN delayed declaring a winner because Webb's lead was less than one percent of the vote.

In Montana, CNN reported Democrat Jon Tester was leading Republican Senator Conrad Burns by about 2,800 votes. Tester declared victory Wednesday during an interview on CNN.

If the Democrats control the Senate seats in Montana and Virginia they will have a majority in the Senate as well as in the House. Victories in Montana and Virginia would give 49 seats each to the Republicans and Democrats with the two remaining seats being held by independents who have claimed they will caucus with the Democrats, Joe Lieberman of Connecticut and Bernie Sanders of Vermont.

Dr. Steven Breezeel, assistant professor of political science and history, said the closeness of the Montana Senate race came as a surprise.

see ELECTIONS page 3A



CRAIG RAINBOLT/The Bison

White County citizens watch as election results are posted on a screen in the Searcy courthouse Nov. 7.

Educating For Life To Host Fundraiser Tomorrow

SUSANA VELIZ
copy editor

Educating for Life will host three fundraising activities tomorrow starting at 8 a.m. with a bake sale. A spaghetti luncheon will follow at 11 a.m. and baby-sitting will be provided from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. James Church parish hall, at 1102 Pioneer Rd.

The spaghetti luncheon will include spaghetti, salad, bread sticks, drinks and dessert, sophomore Berangelly Pagoda said.

The donation for the luncheon

is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children ages 10 and under, baby-sitting will cost \$5 per hour per child for the first two hours, and \$3 per hour after that, graduate student Carlos Antunez said.

The purpose of these activities is to help support local service projects and Educating for Life, a student-based program that provides scholarships to children in Guatemala, Pagoda said.

The profits of the activities will be divided between Educating for Life and local service projects in the Searcy area, Antunez said.

Educating for Life has set a goal to raise \$2,000 for this year,

Pagoda said.

"Right now we're sponsoring five children," Pagoda said. "For every child, we need about \$400 to provide them with school uniforms, food, rent since they don't stay in their hometown, transportation and other needs."

All of the proceeds are destined to the children. Administrative and travel expenses to Guatemala are covered out of the member's own funds, Antunez said.

The recipients of these scholarships live in the indigenous community of San Antonio El Organo, in Huehuetenango,

Guatemala, where the closest school is two and a half hours away. Most of the residents of the community speak Mayan dialects, which hinders their integration to the outside world, Pagoda said.

"We want to every year provide more and more scholarships for these children," Pagoda said. "Their living conditions are really poor. They come from a community where they lack electricity and drinking water. We try to bring this community up by providing education to these children so they can move forward in life."

"We want to every year provide more and more scholarships for these children. They come from a community where they lack electricity and drinking water. We try to bring this community up by providing education to these children so they move forward in life"

BERANGELLY PAGOADA
sophomore

Educating for Life has already graduated three boys from high school, Pagoda said. In addition to receiving an education and learning Spanish, the scholarship recipients provide tutoring to

younger students.

Pagoda said most of the scholarship recipients are boys, and recruiting girls is an extra challenge because they usually stay in the village performing household chores.

Educating for Life has been working at Harding since 1999 and raises funds through activities such as car washes, waiting tables at local restaurants and selling discount cards from local businesses, Pagoda said.

Membership is open to whoever wants to join. Antunez and Pagoda may be contacted at my_efl@hotmail.com.

11.10.06

It's Time To Choose

It's that time of year again — No, I'm not referring to sports — Thanksgiving or the last half of the semester. 'Tis the season for advising, and consequently I started this column in my office at 7 p.m. The hours of daylight have gotten shorter, but my time at the office has increased. My office is Grand Central Station most of the day, but I'm not complaining.

Despite my occasional groans about the frantic pace, advising is a critical time of year for me. I enjoy catching up with my students, particularly ones I have not seen in class this semester. I also get to meet new students who have decided to cross over and major in the dusty subject of history. Furthermore, this is the time of year when I feel most confident about the ministry the Lord has granted me.

Today, few people talk of having a "calling," but as my mother would tell you, I have wanted to be a teacher from the age of three. I decided on history in eighth grade. Most people, however, are not so fortunate. In college, I knew two guys who, between the two of them, had every major on campus — quite a record. Interestingly, only two of my college crew are actually using the degrees we originally received. In fact, my best friend went back to school and got a degree in another subject (after she had finished her master's in the original) to do what she does now. It may sound as if I come bearing no hope, telling you that your major doesn't matter at all.

But the major, the degree and, eventually, the path do matter. Ecclesiastes 2:24 tells us that finding enjoyment in our work is a gift of God. I am privileged to have that gift. I know many who aren't. They simply have a job that pays the bills — or at least mostly does. I have seen the lack of joy in one's work damage relationships. That's why these weeks of advising and registration are so important. My job is not only to help figure out class schedules but hopefully to provide a little guidance. Some say teachers choose this profession because we have captive audiences for our talking. But listening is an even more critical skill for teachers. In these conversations, the Lord grants me a window into the myriad of plans he has for his children. Lots of prayer is required, and listening and watching for what makes someone's face light up when they talk. Knowing what sparks your interest is the key to find the right path — a path for serving the Lord and for finding joy.

In my best friend's case, she loves numbers. Go figure — I, the history geek who abhors numbers, have a best friend who adores them. She was a math major and enjoyed it. The trouble was she couldn't figure out what to do with that major. She still didn't know for sure when she attended grad school. She just knew she didn't want to teach. She worked at a real estate firm for several years and really did not care for it at all. Then, she took an accounting class. She now has another degree in ac-

Dr. Julie Harris

Faculty Voice



counting, is a CPA and loves what she does.

Knowing this story and others of students graduating with two undergraduate degrees and three majors because of a lack of solid advising or seeking that advice makes the importance of my task in these weeks loom even larger. College — besides being about learning big words — is a place to figure out at least part of our path. If we are wise, we seek advice or at least listen when it is offered.

After class one day, I received some off-hand advice from a professor that changed my own course. I was going to teach high school and then go back and get my doctorate later. Dr. Fred Bailey, now chairman of the history department at ACU, told me to go all the way through while I was in the groove of studying and pointed out the flexibility of the college professor's schedule. Dr.

Bailey probably does not remember the conversation, but he does not need to. I do. It helped set me on the path of coming to Harding as a professor and meeting my husband in graduate school. It also helps remind me to be careful which words I choose with students and to be in prayer constantly about my interaction with them.

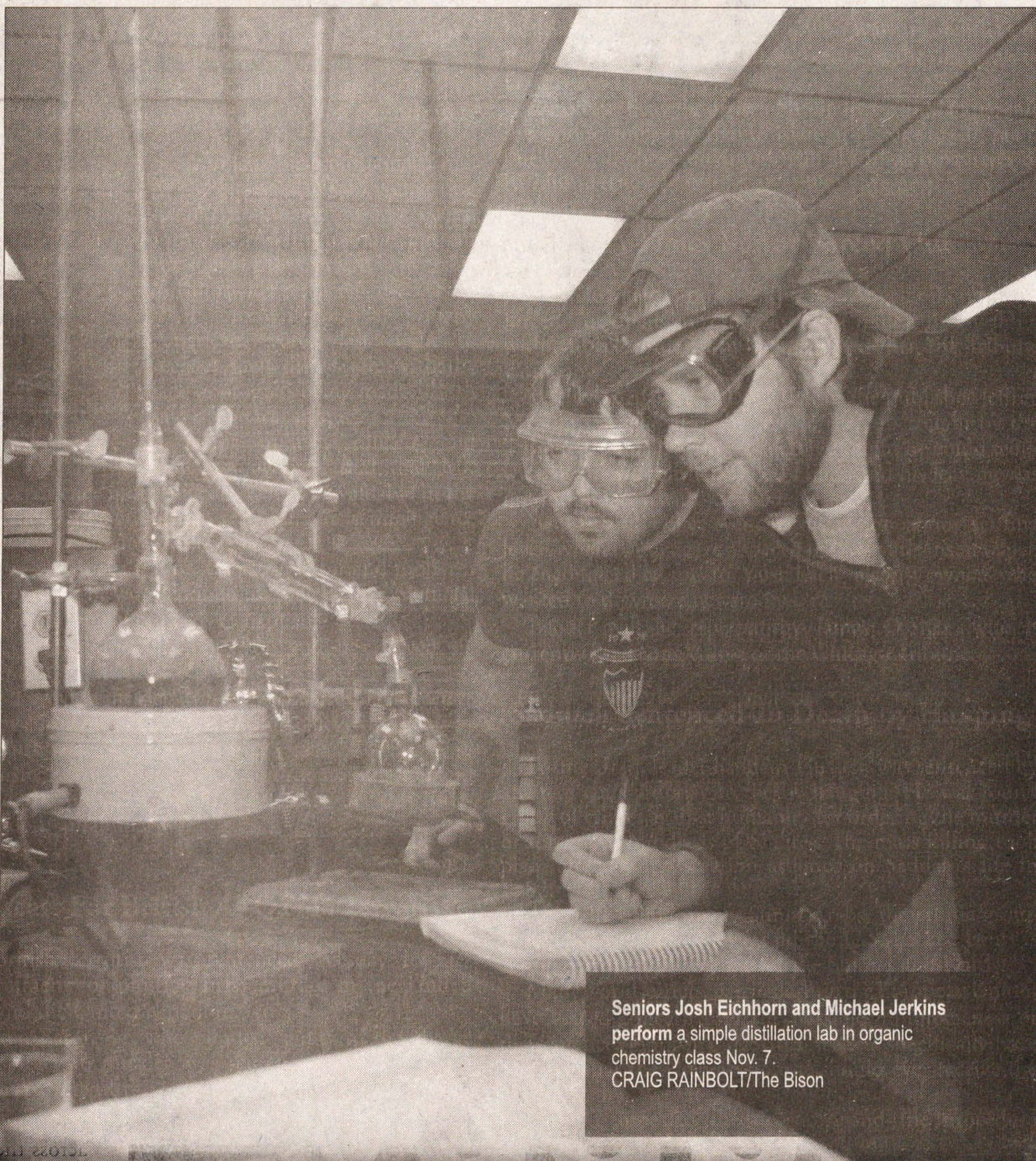
So what's my point? Go see your advisor or someone you trust to talk about what you want to do. It is not always a fun conversation, but it is important, and it allows the Lord to provide you with guidance from some odd places at times. Moses, after all, had a conversation with God through a burning bush — surely, that's a lot more terrifying than an adviser. Listen and digest what is said. You never know how profound it might be.

Before, after and during the conversation, be in constant prayer about this. I know many who pray about internal spiritual struggles, the sick and many other things, but they sometimes forget to pray about making the right choice for a major or a career. This is an important choice, and the Lord tells us that it is. In Ecclesiastes, the teacher tells us no fewer than seven times to enjoy what we do. What we choose to do should involve the Lord as much as any other aspect of our lives.

After prayer and listening, choose a major and a career based on what you want to do. Do not choose a major simply for money or based on the expectations of others. You will be miserable in the end, and your service to the Lord will be impaired. One talent we are to use for the Lord is our joy, and doing something you love is using your talents wisely. The Lord can and will use you in whatever field you choose, but it is easier to draw people near to God when we enjoy our lives rather than merely existing. So, choose, but choose wisely.

JULIE HARRIS is a professor of history. She can be contacted at jeharris@harding.edu.

WEEKLY WINDOW

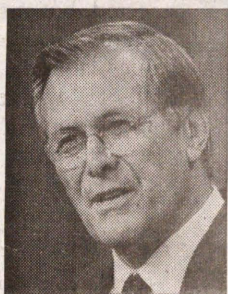


Seniors Josh Eichhorn and Michael Jerkins perform a simple distillation lab in organic chemistry class Nov. 7. CRAIG RAINBOLT/The Bison

IN & OUT: NEWS TO KNOW

Rumsfeld Resigns, Bush Elects Successor

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld stepped down Wednesday after midterm election results were announced.



RUMSFELD

Gates' experience in intelligence would be valuable in the worldwide campaign against terrorism. It is intelligence that guides the firepower, they said.

"Gates will focus less on transformation and more on understanding the world around us," one Pentagon official said. "We all agree that needs to happen."

Gates joined the CIA in 1966 and has served six presidents.

"He'll provide the department with a fresh perspective and new ideas on how America can achieve our goals in Iraq," Bush said.

Rumsfeld congratulated Gates on the nomination and thanked the president for his leadership in "this little-understood, unfamiliar war."

40 Years For British Al-Qa'ida Terrorist

A British terrorist was sentenced Tuesday to life-imprisonment for plotting mass murder in the United States and the United Kingdom.

Dhiren Barot, 34, who pleaded guilty to the charge of conspiracy to murder, was sentenced to a minimum of 40 years, one of the harshest sentences to be given in Britain.

The judge said Barot's plans would have caused "carnage, bloodshed and butchery ... on a colossal and unprecedented scale" were they carried out.

Barot planned two acts of terror in meticulous detail, the first in the United States — New York, Newark and Washington — and the second in London. Both involved filling limousines with explosives and leaving them in underground car parks beneath key financial centers. The second plan also involved bombing a London Underground train under the Thames and a gas attack on the Heathrow Express.

Though no evidence of actual bomb-making materials or explosives were found at the time of arrest, the judge said Barot's "chilling" plans were clearly "no idle plot."

The 9/11 Commission report said Barot was sent to New York to carry out reconnaissance on potential targets

by Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, who was the architect of the attacks on the World Trade Center, at the direction of Osama bin Laden.

Barot was brought up as a Hindu by his Indian parents in London and converted to Islam at the age of 20. He is one of the highest-ranking British al-Qa'ida operatives to be captured.

LA Times Editor Forced Out

Dean Baquet, editor of The Los Angeles Times, was forced out of his job Tuesday for a refusal to go along with cutbacks ordered by the paper's owner, the Tribune Company.

Baquet's departure follows that of the publisher Jeffrey M. Johnson who also objected to the cuts sought by the Tribune Company. Baquet said he thought he could work with the new publisher, David Hiller, and his leaving was not in solidarity with Johnson.

Baquet and Hiller were in discussion about staffing levels when Baquet gave a speech in New Orleans in which he encouraged editors to "push back" against owners who wanted to downsize newsrooms.

Baquet will be replaced by James O'Shea, who is currently managing editor of the Chicago Tribune.

Saddam Sentenced To Death By Hanging

Former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein was sentenced by an Iraqi court Sunday to die by hanging. He was found guilty of crimes against humanity for ordering the murder or torture of hundreds of Shi'ites. The mass killing took place after an assassination attempt on Saddam's life in 1982.

After the ruling, many Sunni Arabs, the ethnic group of which Saddam is a part, said the U.S.-backed court is acting out political revenge for the Shi'ites and Kurds.

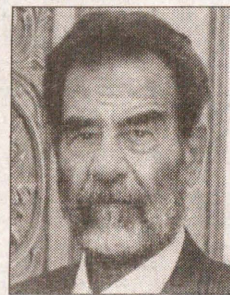
Many world leaders, particularly in the European Union, have voiced concern over the possible inhumaneness of the sentence. Finnish and British leaders specifically have declared that they believe no one should ever receive the death penalty.

Hussein appealed the decision, and the procedure started Monday.

Iran has urged the Iraqi government to ensure that the sentence is carried out, despite the pressure to do otherwise.

"We hope that they will not be pressured by those who have launched psychological warfare into not carrying out the verdict," government spokesman Gholam Hossein Elham said Tuesday.

"The court verdict has been reached at the end of a long and open trial," Elham said. "We hope that the verdict is carried out for the Iraqi criminal in a way that prevents the crimes of dictators."



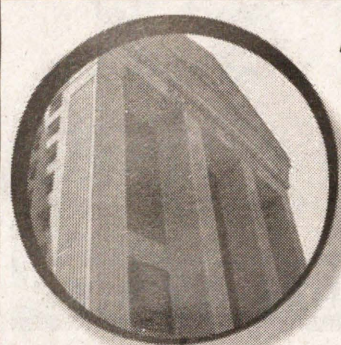
HUSSEIN

Price and participation may vary.
© 2006 McDonald's

the menu with a never ending happy hour.

Dollar M Menu

i'm lovin' it®



There are 5,744 students
on Harding's main campus...

...do they know who you are?

Maximize your business reach by advertising in the Bison.

The Bison is a student run paper and a great way to get the word out.
For advertising information call 501-379-4330 or go to www.harding.edu/thebison

Humane Society Benefit Concert



CRAIG RAINBOLT/The Bison

Senior Katie Casey, junior Jillian Shackelford and senior Alice-Anne Murray sing with the jazz band in the Searcy High auditorium Nov. 5 during a benefit concert. Proceeds went to the Searcy Humane Society.

BURKS: HU President Continues Planning

CONTINUED from page 1

According to Burks, the board does not have a successor in mind nor are they looking for one. Such a search will not occur for a few more years, he said.

"We don't anticipate that a change will take place immediately; there's no reason to get into that yet," Burks said. "And that is one of the outcomes of [the decision] — that won't be high on the agenda for several years."

Burks said he has received positive feedback from people across the state. He received a standing ovation at the Black and Gold Banquet when his contract extension was announced.

"I was pleased [at the ovation

and the comments], but I'm not looking for that," Burks said.

Burks said Harding administration works on a series of five-year plans, and this year is the fourth of the current five-year plan.

"The emphasis next year will be to listen to ... all the members of the Harding family and get input as to what we should do during the next five years," Burks said. "Now that would have happened regardless, but it will be easier doing that knowing that I'm going to be here over that five-year period to try to implement it as a part of the team ... as opposed to our going through the process next year, but [not knowing] necessarily who the people would be who would try to implement it."

"I still have lots of things that I think we can do that will make Harding an even better place."

DAVID BURKS
president

New scholarships and degrees have been added during Burks' tenure. A Pharm.D. program is slated for fall of 2007, and Burks said he is excited to see the matriculation and commencement of the first class in that program.

"I still have lots of things that I think we can do that will make Harding an even better place, and I'd love to continue working as long as my health allows," Burks said.

ELECTIONS: Democrats Sweep The Polls

CONTINUED from page 1

"The final outcome was expected, but most of the early indications had been pointing to a much larger margin of victory for Tester," Breezeel said.

On other issues, Breezeel said the Democrats now wield more power and more responsibility.

"The change in leadership offers the Democratic Party an opportunity to promote their agenda," Breezeel said. "Control of both houses also carries a greater responsibility for the Democratic Party, putting them in a position where they will face some pressure to produce policy outcomes rather than simply responding to Republican proposals."

Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., will likely become the first female Speaker of the House. CNN reported Pelosi has said she will use her new position to push for implementation of all 9/11 Commission recommendations on national security, raising the minimum wage, cutting interest rates on student loans and supporting embryonic stem-cell research.

According to CNN, after winning reelection Pelosi, who voted against the invasion of Iraq, called for the resignation of Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld. Many Democrats and some Republicans had called for

Rumsfeld's resignation leading up to the election.

The AP reported that on Wednesday morning Rumsfeld announced his resignation and Bush nominated Robert Gates as his replacement. Gates formerly headed the CIA and is currently the president of Texas A&M University.

Fox News said Gates looks forward to the challenge of serving his country.

"The United States is at war in Iraq and Afghanistan," Gates said. "We're fighting against terrorism worldwide. And we face other serious challenges to peace and our security. I believe the outcome of these conflicts will shape our world for decades to come."

Breezeel said the election results were generally consistent with everyone's expectations.

"Most predictions were for a five to seven seat gain for the Democrats with extremely tight races predicted in Missouri and Virginia," Breezeel said. "Most of the close house races tended to break for the Democrats."

Breezeel said the results would also have an impact on the judicial nominations.

"The election means that it will become much more difficult for President Bush to gain confirmation for his judicial nominees," Breezeel said.

In addition to nationwide races for the House and Senate, many

"The election means that it will become much more difficult for President Bush to gain confirmation for his judicial nominees."

STEVEN BREEZEEL
assistant professor of political science

states voted for governors and various ballot initiatives. In Arkansas, Democrat Mike Beebe won the race for the governor's mansion with a 15 percentage-point margin over Republican Asa Hutchinson, the AP reported.

The South Dakota legislature had approved a law that would have banned most abortions including in cases of rape and incest, but voters rejected the measure, the AP reported. The only exception included in the law was to save the life of the pregnant woman.

The AP reported that at least five states approved constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage, including Idaho, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and Wisconsin. Results in other states were still pending.

Five other states, including Arizona, Missouri, Montana, Nevada and Ohio passed increases in the minimum wage, with results in Colorado still pending according to CNN. Voters in Arizona also passed a measure that makes English the official language of their state.

HARDING PRESS

SERVING THE UNIVERSITY WITH QUALITY PRINTING FOR OVER 50 YEARS!

600 South Remington • Searcy, Arkansas • (501) 279-4341

GRADUATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

PERSONALIZED WITH:

- YOUR NAME
- YOUR DEGREE

HAVE IT YOUR WAY!

CALL EXT. 4341

Or Come By:

600 South Remington
Located in the Lott R. Tucker
Physical Resources Building
(South of Main Campus)

Senior Show Features Live Art

MELISSA MCDONALD
assistant copy editor

All art majors are required to put on senior art shows, but not all art shows include live music and the painting of an 8x16 foot canvas done live.

Senior Jon Ross' art show includes both.

Ross has been producing works of art since 1998, when he was diagnosed with autoimmune hepatitis. It took him two years to begin functioning normally again, he said.

"While I was recovering, art became my venue of expression and purpose," Ross said.

Ross said his illness causes him to be very sick and prevents him from doing everything he wants.

"I have been stubborn and almost in denial of it, trying to tell myself I can work as hard as any other person and do fine, but that didn't prove right," Ross said. "My immune system is very weak as a result of the drugs I have to take to prevent it from scarring my liver more. I can't work as hard as I want to or else I get sick. I still have a liver that is 90 percent scarred, which is beyond its ability to regenerate."

Ross said a product of his illness has been his different perspective on his life's purpose.

"After coming very close to death, the experience had a profound effect on my mind," Ross said. "I seriously considered my purpose for being alive and why God had allowed me to live. After thinking it over, I decided that even if God didn't

have a purpose in mind for me, I would give him one."

Ross said he did his first painting in fall of 2004. His show includes work done in many different mediums.

"I'm trying to highlight myself as an oil painter, although I draw, sculpt and [do] just about every other medium," Ross said. "I've included a few examples of personal favorites from pencil drawings and sculptures."

Ross said the inspiration for his work comes from many different experiences including his studies abroad.

"[Performance painting] takes an artist who is sure of his abilities."

JON ROSS
senior

"The inspiration for my style came from the ancient Greek geometric period, cubism and images of the human figure," Ross said. "My summer at HUF and the travels I did before returning were a huge benefit to my artistic development. My favorite museums were the Tate [in London], Van Gogh's museum in Amsterdam, Auguste Rodin's gardens [in Paris] and the Neue Pinakothek in Munich."

The theme of the show and the title of the painting he will be doing live is "The Red Line District." Red, black and white are commonly used in Ross' artwork.

Ross said he incorporated the use of red and black in his work modeled after the Greeks' use

of red and black figure ware in pottery shortly after the ancient Greek geometric period that influenced him. For Ross, the color red serves several purposes.

"Red is found in almost every painting of mine," Ross said. "I framed my paintings in red. I like the color red. It is symbolic of both love and pain. I am proud to have a savior who went through the worst pains so he could identify with us. To me, that shows love."

Ross puts this onto canvas as he is commonly referred to as "the Jesus painter." Ross said he has done about 30 paintings depicting Jesus or the Crucifixion. He said each painting takes about 30 minutes to complete.

"Performance painting is not something I've learned in a class, but I think it is beginning to show up in the art scene," Ross said. "It takes an artist who is sure of his or her abilities."

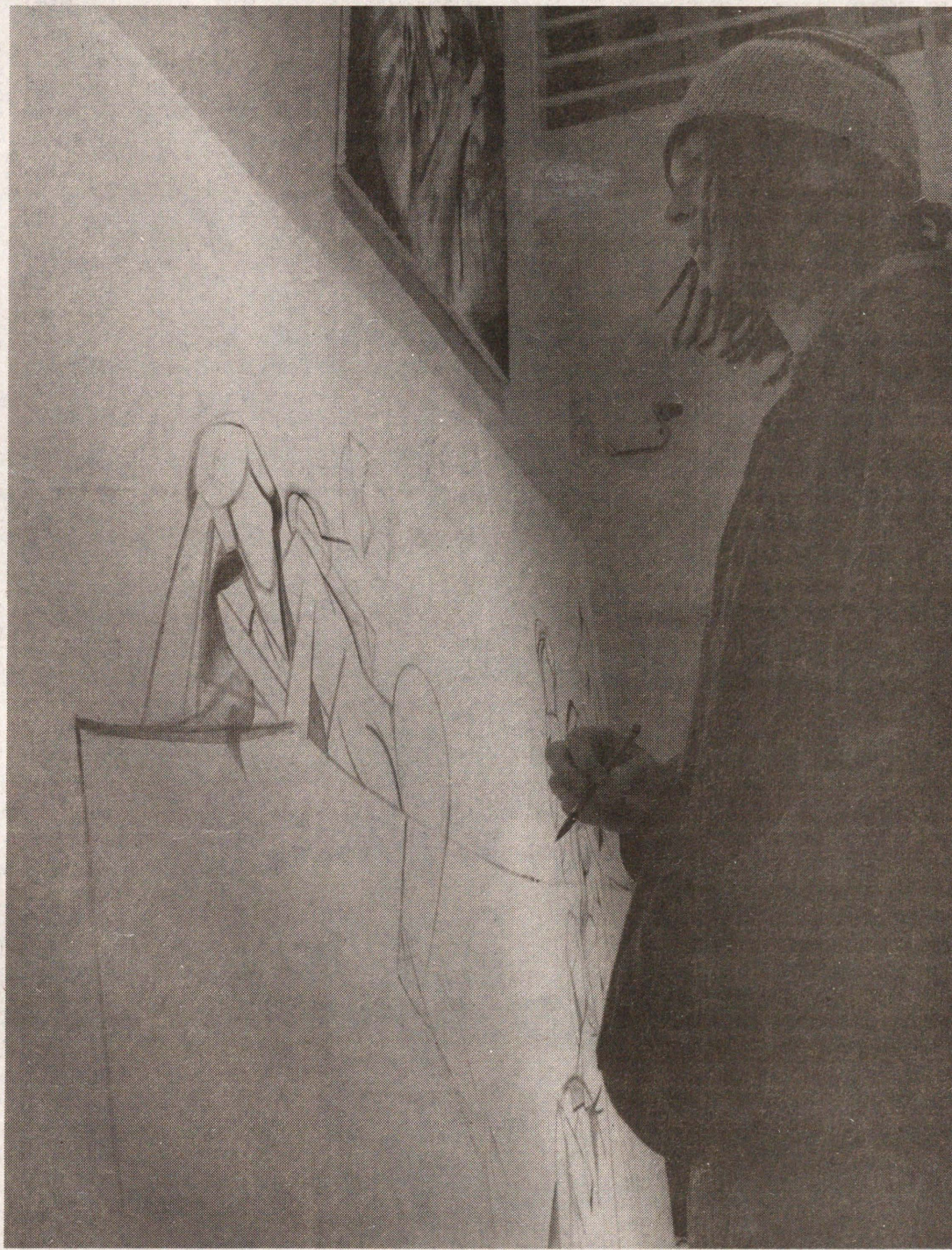
Ross said the performance painting is attractive to the audience.

"People respond with intrigue," Ross said. "It keeps them curious to see it at different stages. The interesting thing about the painting isn't just the finished word, although I believe that is when it is at its strongest."

Junior Janelle Jones said she was attracted to the art show although originally unfamiliar with Ross' work.

Senior Christine Girouard said his style is exhibited in the show as much as his work is.

"Many artists do not get to develop their own style until their later years," Girouard said. "But Jon has done an excellent job perfecting his style."



CRAIG RAINBOLT/The Bison

Senior Jon Ross paints during his senior art show, "The Red Line District," Nov. 7 in the Stevens Art Gallery. Performance art and live music are unique aspects of Ross' show.

Graphic Designers Use Talent To Promote Better Life For Children

LINDSEY LOWE
news editor

Red Brick, Harding's graphic design club, is sponsoring a service project tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in which members and non-members are invited to help create art under the theme of "Children of the World."

The project is designed to raise awareness about the needs of children around the globe who deal with issues including child labor and poor

living conditions, graduate student John Eichman said.

Over the course of six hours, participants in the project will either team up or work individually to create their art pieces, which can include drawings, paintings, photography or any other desired format, senior Zach Fonville, Red Brick president, said.

"It's very open ended," Fonville said. "[Those who participate] can do anything they want, anything that can be hung on the wall [that falls

under the theme.]"

Fonville said participants will meet at Midnight Oil to discuss the logistics of the project after which everyone will disperse to work on their pieces. There will also be two check-ins during which everyone will regroup to show progress and to critique, and the final turn-in will be at 6 p.m.

The final pieces will be displayed in the McInteer building, Eichman said.

According to Eichman, the overall plan for the art show is

still being developed.

"The original idea was that [the 'Children of the World' show] would be a meditative experience, with [focus on] certain countries where children really need our prayers," Eichman said.

According to Eichman, the project began when Dr. Jerry Bowling, associate professor of Bible and director of the Youth and Family Education Lab, came up with the topic "Children of the World" and a few starting ideas.

The project is being tweaked

by Eichman and other graduate assistants and lab workers from the Youth and Family Education Lab, and it is starting to come together, Eichman said.

Fonville said he is really excited and anxious to see how everything turns out.

"I've never tried something this intensive with a large group of people before, and I really hope it turns out well," Fonville said.

Senior Katherine Mitchell, Red Brick member, said she plans on participating in the

project.

"It seems like it should be a lot of fun [and] a good way to get to know the other members of Red Brick while giving back," Mitchell said. "I am looking forward to creating something that isn't just for class, something that feels like it means something."

Mitchell said she is excited about the theme because helping children is something she is passionate about.

"The theme might prove to be a challenge, but that's just part of the fun," Fonville said.

Political Science Professor Reaches Readers Through Blog Site

MELISSA MCDONALD
assistant copy editor

In times of technological advances allowing citizens to have their news instantly, those who seek knowledge of events as they happen must be quick to respond.

For some, this comes in the form of blogging. Blogging has long been a form of social networking and journal keeping, and yet for others, a way to reflect on and to stay connected to the world around them.

For Dr. Mark Elrod, professor of political science, this

is a way for him to do both.

What began as a Xanga site to read others' blogs turned into a blog of his own, Elrod said.

"I started blogging in September 2005 with a Xanga site," Elrod said. "Several of my students were using Xanga, and I got curious and opened an account so I could make comments on their Xanga pages. In October 2005, I opened a site on Blogspot and then this summer I purchased my own domain name."

Elrod said working in a classroom and constantly be-

ing in a political environment provides him with many topics to write about.

"I read a lot of books, political blogs and online newspapers," Elrod said. "On Saturdays, I post what I think is the strangest story I've heard all week as 'This Week's Sign of the Impending Apocalypse.'"

Elrod said he writes on his blog at least once a day, trying to vary content between serious and non-serious posts about politics, religion or life at Harding.

Elrod said he thinks there is

a misconception about what a blog really is.

"While I do occasionally report what might be called 'news' in a post, most of the posts I make are based on my own biased thoughts or opinions," Elrod said.

Elrod said the blog has benefits for his readers as well as for himself.

Since he first began as a reader and commenter on others' blogs, Elrod said he has developed his own blog into a more serious effort.

As a faculty member at Harding, Elrod feels that he

has a niche in the area of politics and religion that give him a unique perspective on some things, he said.

"Being a political liberal in a largely conservative academic community, the blog has given me an outlet for many ideas that I kept to myself in the past," Elrod said. "I believe I have a very well-informed readership, and I probably learn as much from them as they learn from one of my posts."

Elrod said with the blog he hopes to not only inform his readers but also open them to new ideas.

"Most of the posts I make are based on my own biased thoughts or opinions."

DR. MARK ELROD
professor of political science

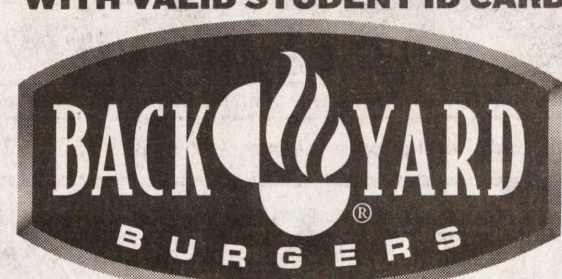
Many students, like sophomore Coleman Yoakum, said they read Elrod's blog for a fresh perspective on events at Harding and elsewhere.

Yoakum said he has read Elrod's blog for about a year and it has become a daily routine.

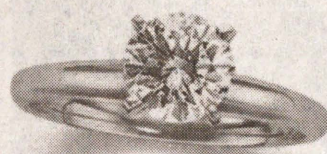
www.harding.edu/thebison

\$1.00 OFF!
ANY REGULAR BACK YARD BURGERS COMBO MEAL
NO COUPON REQUIRED

HARDING STUDENT DISCOUNT
*WITH VALID STUDENT ID CARD



2039 EAST RACE STREET



A crazy little ring called love

Marry her with the diamond that says your love for her is certifiable.

Tara's Gold
fine jewelry • gemologist

Go RE/MAX! The Bison!

RE/MAX Advantage, REALTORS®
Independently Owned and Operated

Judy Hoggard - GRI, CRS
Executive Broker
Cell: 501.593.1800
Email: judy@hoggardteam.com

Phil Hoggard
Sales Associate
Cell: 501.953.1700
Email: phil@hoggardteam.com

Office: 501.268.3335
www.hoggardteam.com

THE HOGGARD Team

The Real Estate Leaders

2305 W. Beebe-Capps Expwy • Searcy, AR 72143

Have A Homestyle Thanksgiving



one-hour dinner rolls

pkgs. (1/4 oz. each) active dry yeast
 1/4 cup very warm water (115 degrees-120 degrees)
 1 1/2 cups buttermilk, at room temperature
 1/2 cup packed vegetable shortening
 3 tbs. sugar
 1 tsp. salt
 1/2 tsp. baking soda
 4 1/2 cups all-purpose flour

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Butter three 6-cup muffin pans. In bowl stir yeast into warm water until dissolved. Stir in next 5 ingredients until combined. (Mixture will be lumpy.) Stir in flour, 1 cup at a time, until soft dough forms. Turn dough out onto lightly floured surface; knead until smooth and elastic, 8 minutes. Let stand 10 minutes. Divide into 18 pieces; divide each dough piece into 3 pieces, cover dough not in use. Roll each dough piece into round ball. Place 3 balls in each muffin cup. Cover; let rise in warm place until doubled in bulk, 30 minutes. Bake 15-18 minutes or until golden. Cool in pans on racks 10 minutes. Remove from pans; serve or cool completely on rack. - www.webterrace.com

good ole country stuffing

2 loaves oven-dried white bread (recommended: Pepperidge Farm)
 2 cups cooked white rice
 1 sleeve crushed saltines
 1 pound bulk breakfast sausage
 2 cups chopped celery
 1 large onion, chopped
 7 cups chicken stock
 Salt and freshly ground black pepper
 1 teaspoon dried sage leaves
 1 tablespoon poultry seasoning
 3 eggs, beaten
 1/4 stick butter, melted

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F.
 Crumble oven-dried bread into a large bowl.
 Add rice and saltines.

Cook sausage in a large skillet until it starts to brown. Add celery and onion and saute until transparent, 5 to 10 minutes. Pour over bread and ricemixture. Add stock and mix well. Add salt, pepper, sage and poultry seasoning. Mix well. Add the beaten eggs and melted butter. Mix well. Reserve 2 tablespoons of the stuffing mixture for the Mushroom Giblet Gravy.

Pour stuffing into a greased pan and bake until cooked through and golden brown, about 45 minutes. - *Food Network*



sweet potato casserole

2 1/2 pounds sweet potatoes (about 3 large), scrubbed
 2 large eggs, lightly beaten with a fork
 3 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted plus more for the preparing the pan
 2 tablespoons packed dark brown sugar
 1 teaspoon kosher salt
 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
 Pinch of freshly grated nutmeg
 Freshly ground black pepper
 1/4 cup coarsely chopped pecans

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Put the sweet potatoes on a baking sheet and pierce each one 2 or 3 times with a fork. Bake for 45 to 60 minutes or until tender. Set aside to cool.

Turn the oven down to 350 degrees F. Scoop the sweet potato out of their skins and into a medium bowl. Discard the skins. Mash the potatoes until smooth. Add the eggs, butter, brown sugar, salt, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg and pepper to taste. Whisk the mixture until smooth.

Butter an 8 by 8-inch casserole. Pour the sweet potato mixture into the pan and sprinkle the top with the pecans. Bake for 30 to 40 minutes until a bit puffy. Serve immediately. - *Food Network*

green bean casserole

1 can (10 3/4 ounces) condensed cream of mushroom soup
 4 cups cooked green beans
 1/8 teaspoon pepper
 1/2 cup milk
 1 1/3 cups French fried onions

Mix soup, milk and pepper in a 1 1/2-quart casserole dish. Stir in beans and 2/3 cup of the fried onions. Bake for about 25 minutes at 350 degrees F. Top with the remaining 2/3 cup fried onions and bake about 5 more minutes, until onions are lightly browned.

Serves 6. - *Diana Rattray/about.com*

Bison

A HARDING UNIVERSITY
STUDENT PUBLICATION

EDITORIAL STAFF

Heather Browning
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Adrienne Brenon
BUSINESS MANAGER

Amanda Pruitt
ASSISTANT EDITOR

Susana Veliz
COPY EDITOR

Lindsey Lowe
NEWS EDITOR

Daniel Wade
SPORTS EDITOR

Alexa Johnston
FEATURES EDITOR

Kevin Rogers
OPINIONS EDITOR

Craig Rainbolt
HEAD PHOTOGRAPHER

Andrea Thornton
ASST. NEWS EDITOR

Melissa McDonald
ASST. COPY EDITOR

Hannah Valls
ASST. PHOTOGRAPHER

Leah Faust
ART EDITOR

Sterling Boone Gray
ILLUSTRATOR

Keylor Campos
WEB EDITOR

Jeremy D. Beauchamp
FACULTY ADVISER

CONTRIBUTORS

Michael Claxton

Jordan Dynewski

Bethany Edwards

Zach Fonville

JCliff Ganus

Joey Hawkins

Brett Keller

Tyler Neese

Ashton Reely

Hayley Todd

CONTACT US

The Bison
Harding University
900 E. Center
HU Box 11192
Searcy, AR 72149
Student Center
Room 223

501-279-4696
NEWSROOM

501-279-4471
EDITOR

501-279-4330
ADVERTISING

thebison@harding.edu

INFORMATION

The *Bison* is a campus newspaper, edited and largely financed by students, seeking to provide high-quality journalistic discussion of issues of concern to the Harding community.

It also serves as an educational tool for students, providing practical experience to enhance skills learned in the classroom.

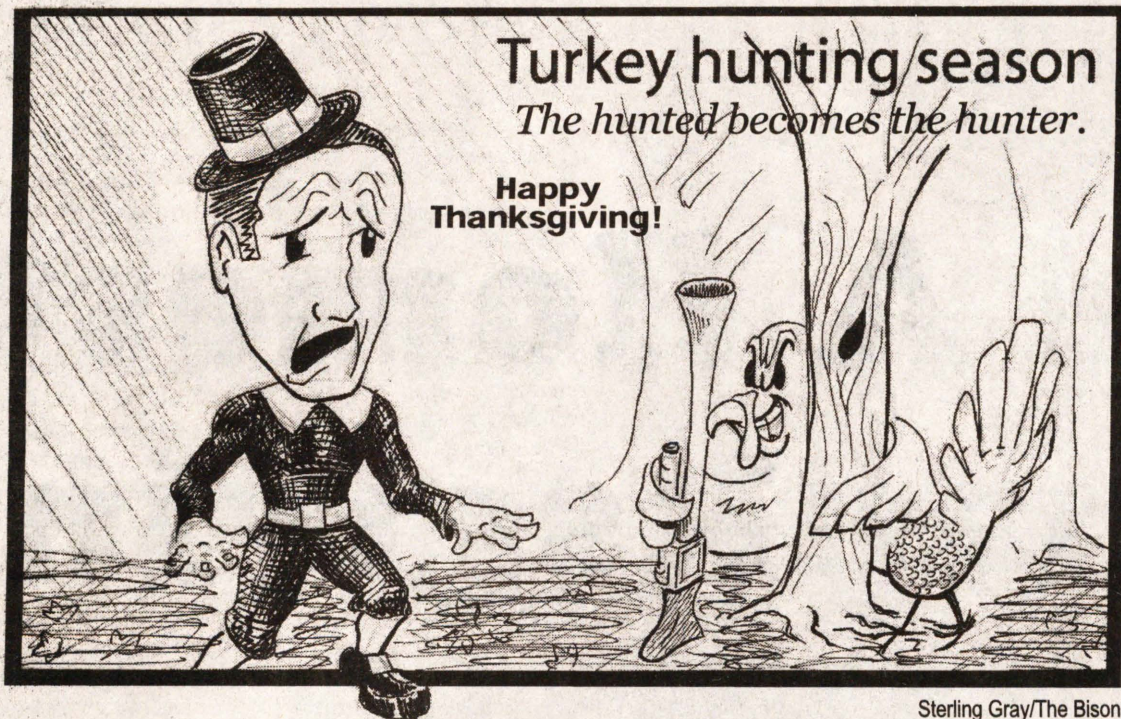
The *Bison* recognizes its responsibility to be accurate, fair and objective in its reporting while upholding the Christian ideals for which Harding University exists.

It attempts to serve as a forum for student perspectives, welcoming letters to the editor which adhere to ethical and professional standards and are no more than 300 words in length.

Signed columns appearing in the *Bison* are the views of the writer and may not reflect the official policy of the Harding University administration. Unsigned columns represent the view of the editorial board.

The *Bison* is published weekly (except during breaks, test weeks and summer sessions) by Harding University, Searcy, AR 72149. Subscription rate: \$10 per year.

Periodical postage (USPS 577600) paid at Searcy, AR 72143. Postmaster: Send address changes to Harding University Box 11192, Searcy, AR 72149-0001. Contact the *Bison* office at 501-279-4139 or 501-279-4471 or send faxes to 501-279-4127.



Sterling Gray/The Bison

Just Say No To Verizon

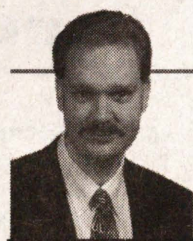
Use Of Cell Phones Leads To Disturbances And Absentmindedness

You may have noticed I was not asked to participate in the recent "Technology and Faith" week in chapel. In fact, there was a restraining order issued by campus security that barred me from coming within 20 feet of the podium, especially on the day when cell phones were discussed. Speaking on a condition of anonymity, a senior administration official stated that the order was necessary to "prevent a scene."

You see, it is widely known among all three of my friends that I cannot stand cell phones. I don't own one, much to the chagrin of my mother, who is convinced that I will be stranded in the middle of nowhere someday. Of course, since I would never think of going nowhere, much less to the middle of it, I feel confident I will never be helplessly stuck there. While I take comfort in knowing that I am not alone in my desire to live cell-phone-free, I am perfectly willing to be the last person alive without a service plan.

The chapel program committee undoubtedly knew that I secretly yearn for the chance at a bully pulpit and a captive audience to listen to me rant and rave against the entire cellular universe. While such antics would undoubtedly get me booed off the stage, it is a martyrdom devoutly to be wished. I can picture myself going out in a blaze of anti-mobile glory, my last words drowned out by a cacophony of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," Beethoven's "Hymn to Joy" and the Arkansas Razorbacks' fight song.

Why am I such a technophobic grouch? One of the saddest facts about life in 2006 is that there is no event so important, so solemn, so sacred or so private that it cannot be interrupted by a cell phone. At every wedding, funeral or ballet recital, we can count on at least three high-decibel ring tones to shatter the



MICHAEL CLAXTON

Humor

I can picture myself going out in a blaze of anti-mobile glory, my last words drowned out by a cacophony of "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," Beethoven's "Hymn to Joy," and the Arkansas Razorbacks fight song.

dignity of the occasion. Few church or chapel services go by without an electronic praise team joining in. And don't get me started on cell phones going off in class. How would you like it if I called while you were doing something important and started talking about semicolons and Milton?

I'm beginning to wonder what kind of occasion might prompt some people to turn off the phones. Imagine these scenes:

Teenager meeting Queen Elizabeth: "It is a privilege to meet . . . Sorry, Her Majesty, my roommate is texting me. Oh, blimey. She's forgot her raincoat again."

Lawyer addressing the United States Supreme Court: "In conclusion, your Honors, the Constitution bestows upon us the sacred trust to . . . Hold on just a minute (answering phone) . . . Hey . . . Yeah, I should be done here in about 10 minutes. I'll meet you at Burger King . . . Order me a Whopper . . . Yeah, no pickles . . . You know how pickles give me gas . . . Oh, sorry, your Honors."

I'm now convinced that there is nothing so trivial, no conversation so inane, no passing thought so banal that it doesn't merit an immediate

call. No doubt while you were reading this column, someone texted you to say, "I just got out of class." Well, praise glory and pass the salsa; I shudder to think what might have happened had you not found out about this.

In her witty and most welcome book, "Talk to the Hand: The Utter Bloody Rudeness of the World Today," the eminently sensible Lynne Truss quotes the eminently obnoxious Bart Simpson line "My bubble, my rules" to describe the attitude of those who apparently feel that an isolation bubble surrounds them everywhere. As a result, they assume their loud, thoughtless behavior affects no one else. "It used to be just CIA agents with ear-pieces who walked around with preoccupied, faraway expressions and consequently regarded all the little people as irrelevant scum," Truss opines. "Now, understandably, it's nearly everybody."

I have a dream. A dream that someday public events will be treated as such. A dream that private conversations will one day be audible only to the parties involved. A dream that eventually, someone out there will be able to manage a face-to-face interaction without looking down to see if someone more interesting has sent a semi-literate text message. A dream that people will be judged not by the deal they're getting on a service plan but by the content of their manners. A dream that all men and women, old and young, rich and poor, black and white, will someday join hands and say, "No, we cannot hear you now!"

To my distress, I recently learned that there are 1.2 billion cell phones currently in use worldwide. That means if all the cell phones in the world were laid end to end, it would be easier to run over them all with a big truck.

MICHAEL CLAXTON is a humor columnist for the *Bison* and may be contacted at mclaxto1@harding.edu

LINDSEY LOWE

Play It Lowed



Don't Curb Your Enthusiasm

The way I see it, there are two kinds of people in the world: those who are enthusiastic about music and those who aren't. I am well aware that music enthusiasts, like myself, can easily slip into the music snob category, but to be honest, I'd prefer to be deemed a music snob than to fall on the other side of the spectrum. For few things irk me as much as hearing someone say that they like "pretty much everything" or "anything with a beat."

I suppose that does sound a bit elitist, but it's difficult for me to understand that some people are indifferent about something that pretty much defines me. And it does define me. I can't lie; I really am one of those iPod-loving kids, who goes through life with headphones shoved in my ears. Though I know how nerdy it is to shuffle around campus completely consumed by sound, I often cannot resist the urge to squeeze in a song or two between classes.

Music is what I happen to be passionate about. Sometimes I lock myself up with my mandolin and lose all sense of time just playing and playing. I could ramble for hours about the genius of musicians like Beck and Josh Homme or the overwhelming talent of drummer Stewart Copeland. And these are the things that make me happy. Music is what reminds me that I'm living. It makes me feel something.

I met up with a good friend of mine the other day, and he had just gotten out of Bible class. He said his professor was screaming. He wasn't screaming because he was angry; he was screaming because he was excited. This professor was so excited about 2 Kings that he was actually yelling during his lecture.

Now, 2 Kings is not all that stimulating in my opinion, but hearing this really made me think. How many days do we waste away, getting excited about nothing, being moved by nothing? Where has our passion gone and why is it that we seem to have no fervor for living? We've got to shake the complacency that clings to our backs. We need to get excited. Like my friend's professor, we need to find something — anything — to scream about.

It's too often that we go through life in a perpetual state of apathy, indifferent to the things that surround us. We are so numb at times that we forget we're living in a world that is infinitely interesting. We continue to drudge around, forgetting that we are designed to feel.

Jack Kerouac, one of my favorite writers wrote, "The only people for me are the mad ones, the ones who are mad to live, mad to talk, mad to be saved, desirous of everything at the same time, the ones who never yawn or say a commonplace thing, but burn, burn, burn, like fabulous yellow roman candles exploding like spiders across the stars."

I want to be mad. Instead of going through our days cold and sleepy-eyed, we should be mad.

Whether it's music, writing, being outdoors or even 2 Kings, we need to find something to be zealous about, something that makes us feel. We are so busy, scurrying about from class to class, meeting to meeting, store to store, office to office, that we forget to actually live. And in order to truly live, we must live ardently. We must quit our yawning. We should be mad.

LINDSEY LOWE is the news editor for the *Bison* and may be contacted at llowe@harding.edu.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTER POLICY

The *Bison* welcomes your views on issues of interest to the Harding community. Letters to the editor from students, faculty, administrators and the Searcy community are encouraged.

Letters must be signed, contain a phone number for verification and be no more than 300 words in length. The *Bison* reserves the right to edit letters for style, clarity and brevity.

Letters to the editor may be submitted to HU Box 11192 or thebison@harding.edu.

Bright Signs of an Encouraging Future

I am writing in response to an article entitled "Bright Sign Somewhat Blinding" that appeared November 3rd under Our View.

Whether change is good or bad, the change had to come at someone's expense. In our case, it's the people that give an incredible amount of their money each year to support new building projects and updates.

The new entrance at the front of the campus is another item on the list that Harding has added that helps plan for the future. With a new intersection coming soon to Race and Grand, the new sign will be a great public relations tool. The debated sign is a new technology that is taking hold not just at Harding, but also at many businesses and churches elsewhere.

I think the recent article highlighting the opinion of the *Bison* blew the improvements way out of proportion. Being here for four years, I've seen the campus updated in so many different ways.

Whether they please my decorating tastes or not, I am so incredibly thankful the people that give to Harding do so out of the goodness of their hearts. "But at least we don't have to prove our identities to a gatekeeper upon returning to campus" is no way to thank the people that give their money or everything they own (as has been done in the past) to make Harding what it is today.

I think the improvements are a sign that Harding is doing very well, and that Harding will have a bright future long after we're gone. My hope and prayer is that before we complain about how something looks, we give thanks to God for providing for us in ways we can see and in ways that we may never understand.

Andrew Leeper, senior

Why Both Parties Have It Wrong In Iraq

For the last few years American politics have been dominated by Iraq, and this isn't likely to change. In fact, opinion polling has shown again and again that Iraq is right up there with terrorism and the economy as one of the most important issues for voters. While I had a strong preference in this election, it wasn't based on the war because I believe both parties' policies (or lack thereof) in Iraq are doomed to fail.

First, as the Republicans haven't been shy to point out, the Democrats have failed to articulate a clear position. The Democrats seem split between an urge to stay the course and hope things get better and an urge to drop everything now because we've suffered too many losses.

The so-called "cut and run" strategy favored by many on the Left is exemplified by Cindy Sheehan. Every compassionate person should sympathize with the loss of her son, a soldier in Iraq.

But while some of my peers see Sheehan's anti-war stance as a clarion call of truth, a prophetic voice in the desert, to me she has all the grating appeal of a shrill reactionary.

Are we as Americans wholly unwilling to sacrifice for a good cause? Regardless of the initial rationale for the invasion or the morality of that action, pulling out now could result in absolute chaos, and we would be held responsible.

The world is full of hot spots, potential genocidal regimes, conflict-induced famines and other situations that may morally



BRETT KELLER

Guest Space

necessitate intervention by the United States and other powerful nations to prevent atrocities.

Our unique sensitivity to American casualties is to some degree a testament to our dislike of war, but it kept us from doing a lot of good in Somalia (the incident portrayed in "Black Hawk Down") and in places like Rwanda and Sudan.

On the other hand, the Republicans have rallied behind President Bush and his mantra of "stay the course." This was recently moderated (largely because of the political pressure of Tuesday's elections) to having "benchmarks" for withdrawal — a slightly more nuanced view, but quite similar in most respects.

Some Democrats have rather correctly called Bush's "stay the course" what it is: "stand still and lose." Our strategy simply isn't working. Despite the improvements we may have made to some portions of Iraqi society, both the sectarian violence and the flow of refugees out of Iraq have steadily increased.

The only policy direction that, in my opinion, seems viable in the long term is largely absent from the debate: a three-state solution.

Why? Iraq is at its heart an unnatural country, a creation of British imperialists who cobbled together long-opposed tribal

districts. David Fromkin's "A Peace to End All Peace" explores the history of the Middle East after the fall of the Ottoman Empire, revealing that Iraq was created for the convenience of its rulers, with virtually no correspondence to ethnic and religious realities on the ground. Following imperialism, it took a tyrant like Saddam Hussein to hold Iraq together.

In a similar situation, Yugoslavia was only held together by imperial and dictatorial communist rule, and ethnic nationalism flared back up after the fall of Tito. While an early military intervention might have prevented a downward spiral of violence in what was to become Bosnia, Serbia and Croatia, at some point separation becomes the only workable option.

After Hussein was deposed, an occupation by a much more powerful American force might have been able to use crushing force to prevent anti-American and sectarian violence and secure Iraq's borders with Iran and Syria. But our failure to have a large enough force on hand and a lack of planning allowed an increase in violence that has steadily grown.

I believe Iraq has reached a breaking point. Ethnic and interreligious tensions have been exacerbated to the point that maintaining a viable, tolerant multi-ethnic nation would require a level of force and commitment that the American public is simply not willing to sustain.

Based on the escalation of Iraqi vs. Iraqi violence since the invasion, we basically have two

choices: divide Iraq into three states now or watch the Iraqis (or more accurately, the extremists on all sides) ethnically cleanse themselves into three states after we withdraw.

The reason a three-state solution of Kurdish, Shi'a and Sunni regions hasn't gained strong support is that Iraq's neighbors hate the idea. Iran and Turkey fear independent Iraqi Kurds because their countries hold their own Kurdish separatist movements. Also, enclaves in Iraq lack clear boundaries, Baghdad is divided and a number of minorities could suffer persecution in divided states just as the states of the former Yugoslavia struggle with minority rights.

These problems might be moderated by moving Iraq toward a loose federation that gives regions significant autonomy and allows some sharing of oil revenues. This would make Iraq's neighbors uneasy, but less so than full independence. And again, if segments of Iraq are likely to separate themselves through the process of war after the Americans depart anyway, giving people the choice to move now might curtail future violence.

I hope I'm wrong; the process would be messy and result in more loss of life before the situation could ever stabilize. But regardless of what Democrats and Republicans claimed in their campaign speeches, neither of the presently espoused strategies seems likely to succeed.

BRETT KELLER is a guest columnist for the *Bison* and may be contacted at bkeller@harding.edu.



HEATHER BROWNING

Browning Points

Christmas Season Grows Stale

Each year, I anxiously await the day after Thanksgiving so my mom can put up my family's Christmas tree. Thanksgiving is my least favorite holiday — seeing how I loathe turkey and dressing — and I am always excited for it to be over. Once Turkey Day has come and gone, it is time to get ready for the Christmas season.

Christmas is by far my favorite time of year. People seem to be much friendlier the closer it gets to the holiday season, and everything just seems to be prettier this time of year. Once Thanksgiving is over, it is time to bust out the Christmas music and wrapping paper and prepare for the one of the most amazing holidays.

Unfortunately, no one else seems to wait for Thanksgiving to be over to begin the Christmas season. For that matter, no one waits for the Halloween to pass either.

This past weekend, while I was doing a little shopping, I was shocked to hear the sound of Christmas music coming from the store's sound system as I walked in the door. As I began to look

around, I was even more surprised to see Santa hats and snowmen decorations on everything. I mean, come on, it is barely November.

Where are the pilgrims and Native Americans? Is it really necessary to be in the "Christmas Spirit" so early?

Every year, Christmas seems to come earlier and earlier. Stores begin putting out their Christmas décor and holiday items as soon as the temperature drops below 90. The "holiday" aisle at Wal-Mart ends up being a mix between Halloween costumes and candy canes by October 1. It is ridiculous.

We have turned into such a high-stress, fast-paced society that we cannot take time and enjoy each holiday as it comes. We seem to want to rush through Halloween and Thanksgiving, without giving them a second thought, in hopes that Christmas will come sooner. News flash, people: no matter how much we ignore other things or how early we get those Christmas lights up, December 25 won't get here any faster. Since we cannot rush time, maybe it would be a good idea to just sit back and relax and let Christmas come at its own pace.

Christmas has slowly turned into a yearlong event. No longer is it only during December that stores count down the shopping days until Christmas. It's not uncommon to see signs posted telling the avid Christmas shopper they better hurry up, because there are only 257 shopping days left until Christmas. Before long, mall Santas will start setting up shop by Valentine's Day.

While Christmas is my favorite time of year, I can only take so much of it. After a few weeks of listening to "Jingle Bells" and "Santa Claus is Coming to Town" every time I turn on the radio, I am about ready to scream. Like everyone else, I enjoy the clay-mation version of Rudolph and Frosty the Snowman, but not in August.

The reason Christmas is so fun is because it only comes once every year. By turning it into a year-long thing, it loses all its charm and uniqueness. Besides, it is impossible to wait up all night long for Santa and his reindeer on Christmas Eve if it's Christmas every day.

So, bring on the sweet potato pie and green-bean casserole and enjoy the time off of school because Christmas will be here before you know it.

HEATHER BROWNING serves as the editor-in-chief for the 2006-2007 *Bison*. She may be contacted at hbrowning@harding.edu or at 279-4471.

Execution of Hussein Not Purposeful

The Sentencing Of Saddam Hussein Elicits Thoughts On Capital Punishment

Two memorable things happened to me on Monday afternoon: I found out about Saddam Hussein's death penalty, and I was disturbed.

At first I was just taken aback by the news; I thought everyone in the universe knew you don't execute charismatic former leaders because it's much harder to make an iconic martyr out of someone who is rotting in prison, but apparently this is not as common knowledge as I thought. After reading a couple of editorials on the matter, though, I realized the Iraqi justice system, while much better than it was under the man it just condemned, is not yet the sort of system from which one can hope to see completely progressive results. This is understandable.

For the Iraqis who suffered under Hussein, drawing and quartering probably seems like an even more appropriate sentence than the one that has been handed down. Additionally, the court system itself is still corrupt, and important procedures (such as



BETHANY EDWARDS

Guest Space

For the Iraqis who suffered under Hussein, drawing and quartering probably seems like an even more appropriate sentence than the one that has been handed down.

lawyers getting enough security to protect them from assassins and kidnappers) are sometimes held up by politicians trying to twist the trial results to their own ends.

The Iranian government, incidentally, is all for this development. A Tehran official was quoted as saying that Hussein's "very existence is anti-human." This is also understandable. As the San Diego Union-Tribune succinctly noted, Iran and Iraq fought an eight-

year war after Hussein invaded in 1980.

What I find slightly less understandable is the reactions I have seen from the people around me when they discuss this piece of information. Faces light up, voices take on an eager, almost triumphant tone and, if I remember correctly, there was even laughter. This is the part that disturbs me. I understand that getting rid of this man for good is something that many Americans have wanted to do for 16 years. I understand that the two incidents he has been tried for, atrocious as they are, are only two major examples of the normal policy of his regime.

However, I also understand that no matter what someone has done, sinking to his level does not rectify the situation. The entire reason we are appalled at Hussein's actions is our belief that human life is not to be lightly taken away. Some would argue this only pertains to innocent human life — relatively innocent, anyway — and would, probably for the only time in their lives, side with

Iran in this matter. Clearly, this man deserves to die.

I hold that yes, if anyone ever deserved to die, it would be Hussein. I think that would be extremely difficult to argue with. But, to paraphrase the classic Tolkien quote, so many people have died and will continue to die who probably don't deserve it. So, does visiting this kind of justice on Hussein really fix any of that? What happens to him is up to the Iraqi courts; I respect that. But I hope that in time, those courts and the attitudes of those around me can become more progressive.

In France in the mid-1800s there was a primitive juvenile detention center called Mettray. The worst punishment that a young inmate of Mettray could receive was to be confined to a cell, alone, with the words "God sees you" written on one wall. This seems to me to be a good alternate punishment for Mr. Hussein.

BETHANY EDWARDS is a guest columnist for the *Bison* and may be contacted at bedwards@harding.edu.

Sometimes We Need To Blame Ourselves

It's his fault I didn't get a good grade in that class. "The teacher just doesn't like me." "I've been too busy to get that done."

And the list could go on and on. We have all heard these excuses and I am sure teachers have heard them more than anyone. They are excuses people give because things are not going the way they want them to.

I had a friend in elementary school whose motto for life was "It's not fair." It seemed like everything was just not fair, no matter what it was. If something was not going the way she wanted it to, it was "not fair." If she got a bad grade it was "not fair." As you can imagine the phrase became very old, very quickly. Unfortunately, this was not a mindset that stopped in elementary school. It continued through high school, and from what other friends have told me, it has continued through her college years.

I am telling about my friend to



HAYLEY TODD

Guest Space

try to convey a point. Yes, she was right, life is not fair, but it does not mean we need to make excuses when things are not the way we want them to be, especially when we could have done more to prevent or help the situation.

It drives me crazy to hear people complain about things they could have prevented. Especially when it is something that is obviously their fault, such as having a bad grade in a class when you never go, or being behind in your classwork when you do not do your homework. People today have become such procrastinators, and I am grouping myself right in with them because I am a procrastinator, but I try not to blame other people when things are not the way they should be.

It all comes down to responsibility. How responsible are you? When you are behind in your class, do you know it is your own fault? Or is it everyone else's? When you make a bad grade is it because you did not study enough or is it because the teacher does not like you? Life is about taking responsibility for your actions. Being responsible is what makes you mature.

I'm afraid teens and college students today have not been taught to completely take responsibility for their actions. It seems like more and more people are trying to blame others for their mistakes. My father is the vice principal at my old high school and on more than one occasion he has told me about parents who call to defend their children's actions by saying it was someone else's fault that he/she did what they did. Being my father's child I know what his response is every time — he/she still did whatever he/she did and he/she is going to

have to take responsibility for it. That is how I was raised. If I got a bad grade, did something stupid or even if I did something good, I had to take responsibility for it.

I understand that sometimes things are out of one's control and there are valid reasons why things do not get done, but responsibility still has to be taken. It is crucial for us as future leaders to understand the idea behind taking responsibility because so many people in leadership positions today do not understand this idea; they are always trying to "pass the buck." If we want to be taken seriously in life, in our jobs, in our relationships with people we come in contact with, we have to start taking responsibility for our actions. We have to stop having the "it's not fair" mindset.

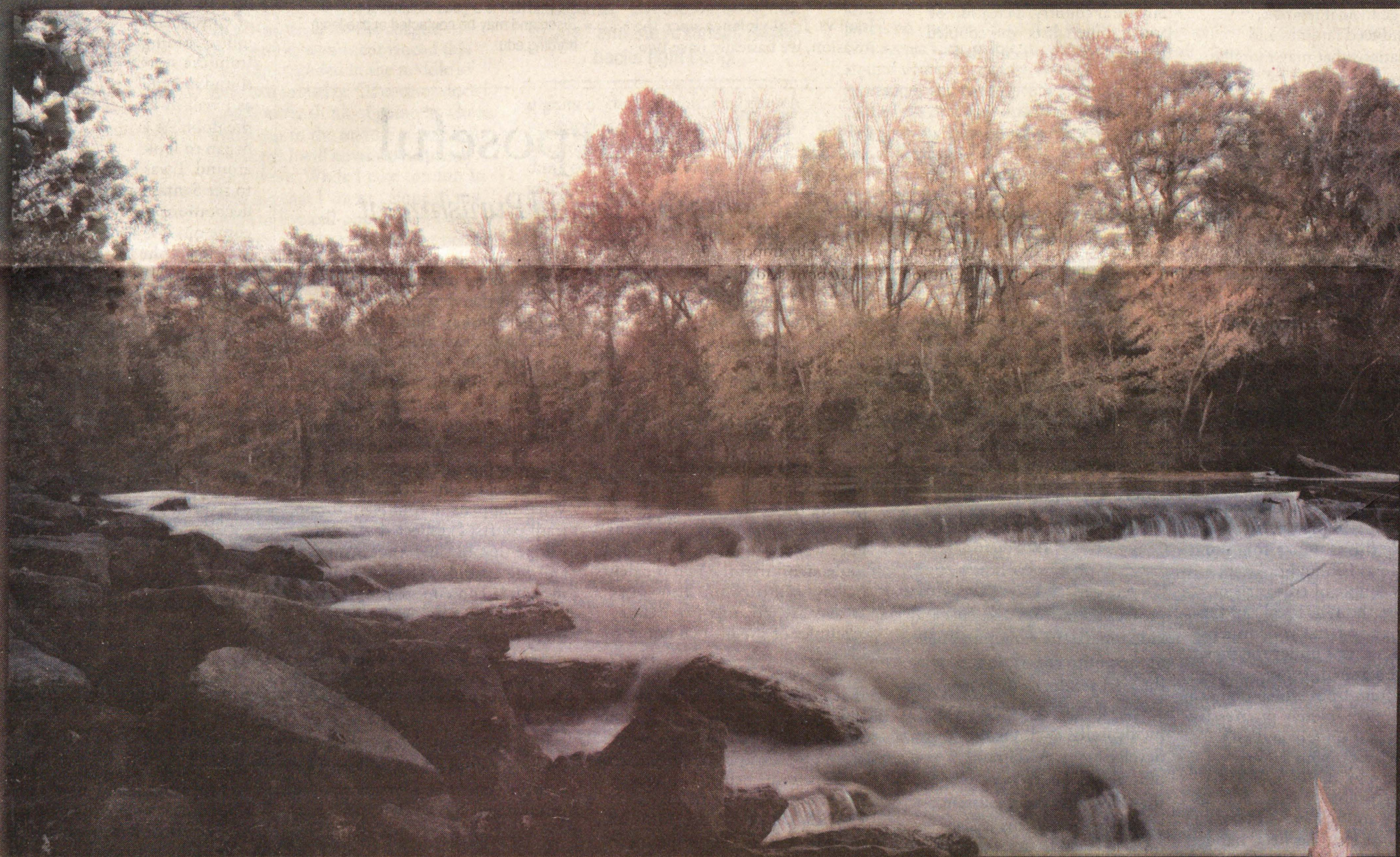
HAYLEY TODD is a guest columnist for the *Bison* and may be contacted at htodd@harding.edu.

Photographs by CRAIG RAINBOLT/The Bison
Photo Illustration by LEAH FAUST/The Bison

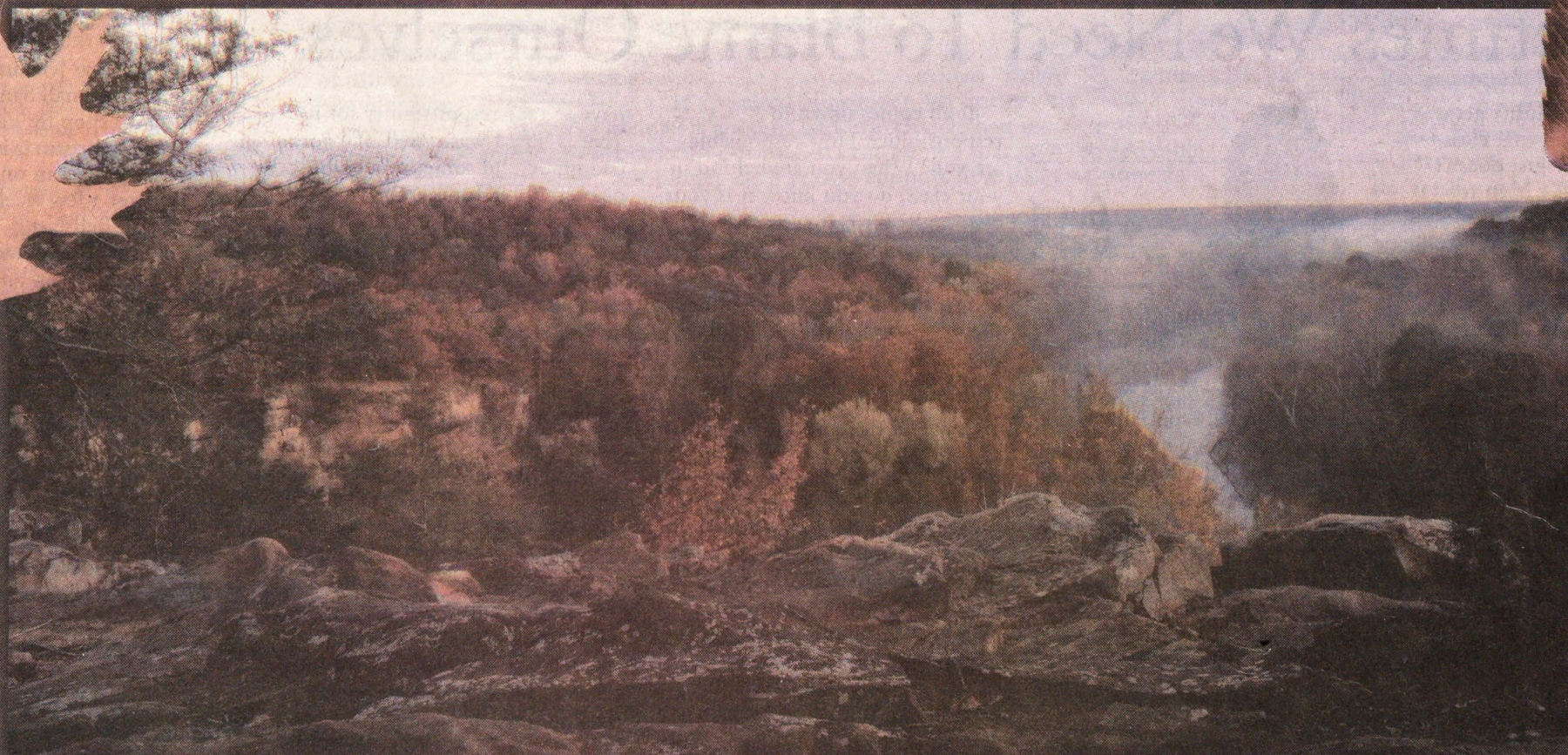
Autumn in Arkansas



Camp Wyldewood has numerous bluffs that overlook The Little Red River Valley.



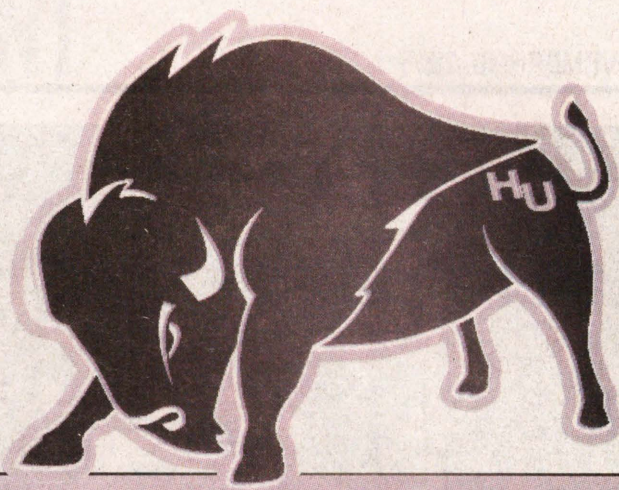
The Little Red River flows over a natural low water dam just outside of Searcy.



B Rock, located in Riverside Park, overlooks the Little Red River.



SPORTS BISON



NOVEMBER 10, 2006

DANIEL WADE

4th and 1



Building a Dynasty

Some people like the concept of a dynasty and some don't. There is the perception that the only thing a dynasty brings to a league is fair-weather fans. Others believe having one team on a pedestal provides opportunities for great rivalries and the ever-increasing motivation to knock big shots off their thrones.

Dynasty teams have to prove themselves worthy year after year. Just because a team has won consecutive titles doesn't mean they get a free pass for next year's trophy. Improvements to other teams, injuries, off-court incidents, etc. all factor in when considering a dynasty. Those teams/organizations that successfully build a dynasty are remembered for years to come.

When a dynasty falls, everyone wants to put the blame somewhere. Most people blamed Jerry Krause, former general manager of the Chicago Bulls, for the demise of an organization that won six titles in eight years. And who knows who to blame for the recent falling out of the Los Angeles Lakers earlier this decade.

Think about the possibilities. Michael Jordan has recently become part owner of the young Charlotte Bobcats. "His Airness" has become a sports businessman in the last few years and is the most widely respected individual in professional basketball. His involvement in this young team will be huge; don't be naïve and write him off citing his previous stint with the Wizards. That might be the biggest mistake you could make.

The Bobcats have been less than spectacular in their first few seasons. You expect a brand-new team to struggle early on, but the Bobcats might see that changing in the near future. Emeka Okafor returns after being plagued with injuries last season and has started off strong. Gerald Wallace, the sole leader of the Bobcats last season, returns as a threat. Raymond Felton has emerged as a true point guard and Sean May will develop as the season goes on.

And there's Adam Morrison. The lanky, mustache-sportin' All-American from Gonzaga was picked third overall by the Bobcats in the draft, a decision largely influenced by Michael Jordan. He plays with passion and there is no doubt Morrison is a natural leader.

I place my money on Adam Morrison despite criticism he receives for showing too much emotion and doubts from skeptics about his smooth transition into the NBA. My roommate thinks he will flop. Morrison will no doubt have rookie moments. But mark my words, Morrison's play will command respect in the years to come. He's already scored in double figures this season against Memphis and helped hold LeBron James to only 16 points last Saturday. Let me say that again. Rookie Adam Morrison shook up near-superstar LeBron James enough to hold him 3-of-13 from the floor in the Nov. 4 Bobcats victory. A flop? I don't think so.

Now I don't know the best way to begin building a dynasty in the NBA, but I can say this: something's happening down in Charlotte. If the combination of Michael Jordan and Adam Morrison in Charlotte doesn't scream "potential" for you, then I don't know what else would.

DANIEL WADE
sports editor

The Bison basketball team began its season last week with a 103-100 exhibition loss to NCAA Division I Northwestern State in Natchitoches, La.

"It's great experience for us to play against a Division I school," senior forward Patrick Andrepoint said. "Playing on that level helps us get ready for our conference."

Junior forward Matt Hall went 9-for-15 from the field and 11-of-14 from the free throw line for 32 points in the loss against the Demons. The Bisons out-rebounded the Demons but struggled with turnovers throughout the game.

"We definitely should have won that game," Hall said. "Coming that close to knocking them off says that we're ready for this season."

Sophomore guard Kellen Morgan said it's encouraging to the team that they can handle that level of competition well.

"We can play with just about anybody this year," Morgan said. "It really boosted our confidence."

Morgan said the team's approach to practice in the off-season was focused more on defense and encouragement.

"Good teams communicate well and that's something we really worked on this off-season," Morgan said.

Andrepoint said the team was much more focused this off-season, whether in the weight room or the track.

"We had a harder work ethic all around," Andrepoint said. "That will be what gives us the extra drive this season."

The Bison basketball team welcomes back Matt Hall after he sustained a season-ending injury against the University of Missouri-Rolla.

"I'm back 100 percent without a doubt," Hall said.

Hall said he is physically healthy and is trying to find his rhythm during the first

couple of games.

"I'm just getting used to the speed of the game again," Hall said.

The Bisons bring many new players to the team this season but lose key players Cesro Sprewell and Lonnie Smith.

"It's tough to lose those guys, and we wish the best for them," Morgan said. "Our older guys have really stepped up and taken responsibility to fill those roles."

Morgan said the new players have contributed well to the team.

"They've really been playing well and it's going to be exciting to see them this season," Morgan said.

Morgan said the team has goals for not just the season, but for every practice as well.

"We have points of emphasis that we focus on and those drive everything we

do," Morgan said. "One team goal we have is to go undefeated at home."

Andrepoint said that tournament and championship goals are also in sight for the Bison basketball team.

"Winning conference is something that is really important to us," Andrepoint said.

The Bisons will be a tough foe to beat this season because of how versatile the team is this season, Hall said.

"We can do it all: we can score in the paint and from the perimeter," Hall said. "They have to beat us multiple ways and that's what makes us so dangerous."

Morgan said the biggest threat to teams that play the Bisons is the crowd support.

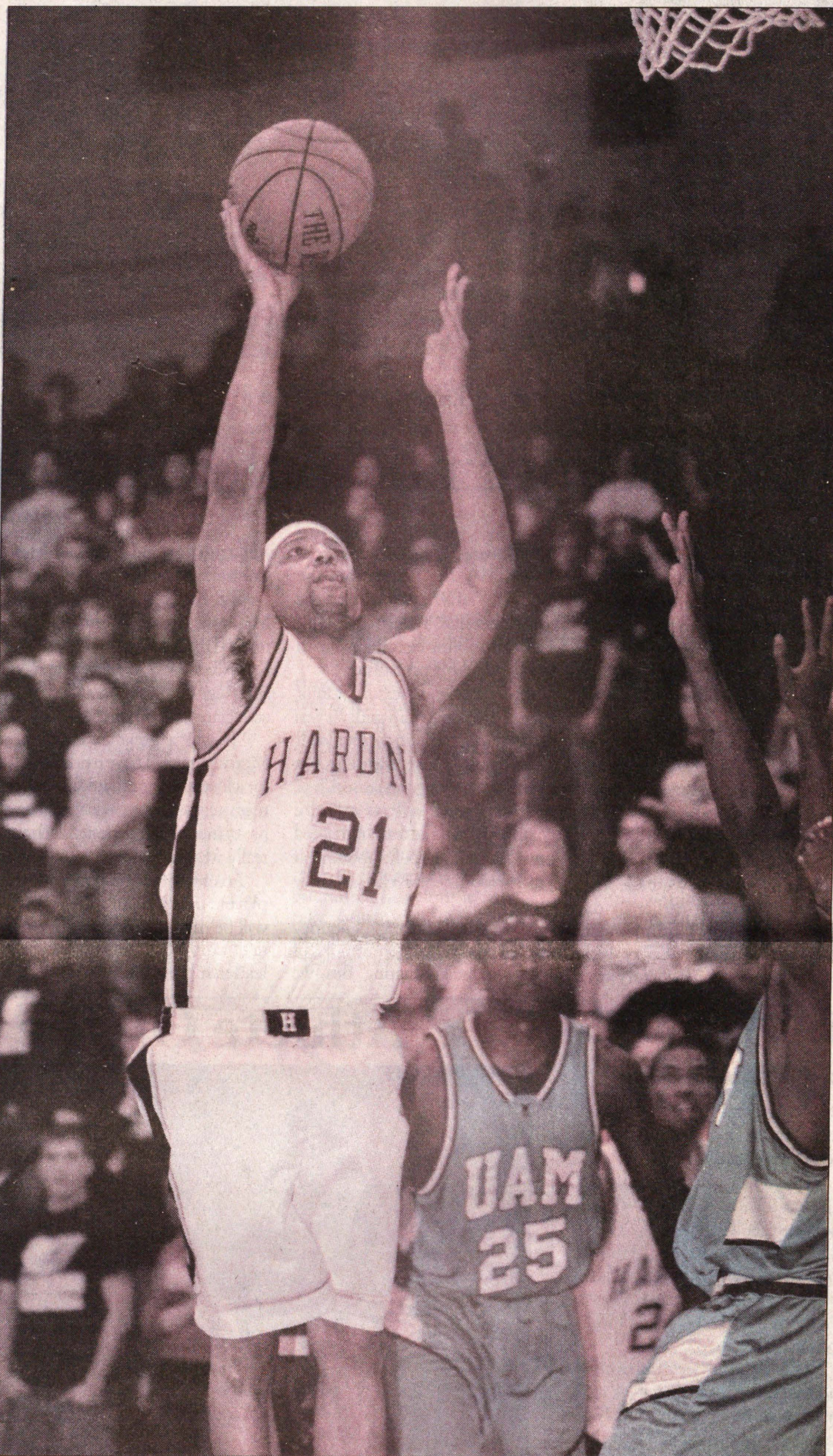
"We work harder than anybody else in the conference," Morgan said. "We wear them down and then the crowd helps us take them out."

The Harding Bisons traveled to Lipscomb University last night to face the Lipscomb Bisons in the first exhibition match since 1976.

Harding and Lipscomb are tied 8-8 in the all-time series.

"They have to beat us multiple ways and that's what makes us so dangerous."

MATT HALL
junior



CRAIG RAINBOLT/The Bison

Senior guard Brandon Sims pulls up for a jumper last season against the University of Arkansas-Monticello. Last season, Sims averaged 10 points per game while battling a back injury late in the season.

Starting Five Back For Lady Bisons

TYLER NEESE
student reporter

As the Lady Bisons soccer and volleyball teams end their seasons, the Lady Bisons basketball team gears up for a promising season.

The Lady Bisons opened the 2006-07 season in an exhibition game against Northwestern State. Though Harding lost the season opener 82-79, the future looks bright according to second-year head coach Tim Kirby.

"I expect this team to keep getting better every day," Kirby said. "The new girls are starting to figure out what we need from them and where they fit in the game plan, and the returning players have had great attitudes. It has been really neat to see everything come together. These girls know how to play together."

Three-pointers seem to be

one of the team's strengths early in the season.

The Lady Bisons finished the exhibition match against Northwestern State with fifteen 3-pointers, seven of which were contributed by sophomore guard Catherine McMenemy. Junior guard Kinsey Tucker made five 3-pointers in Monday's game against Centenary, in which the team topped their previous performance and the school record by draining 16 three-pointers.

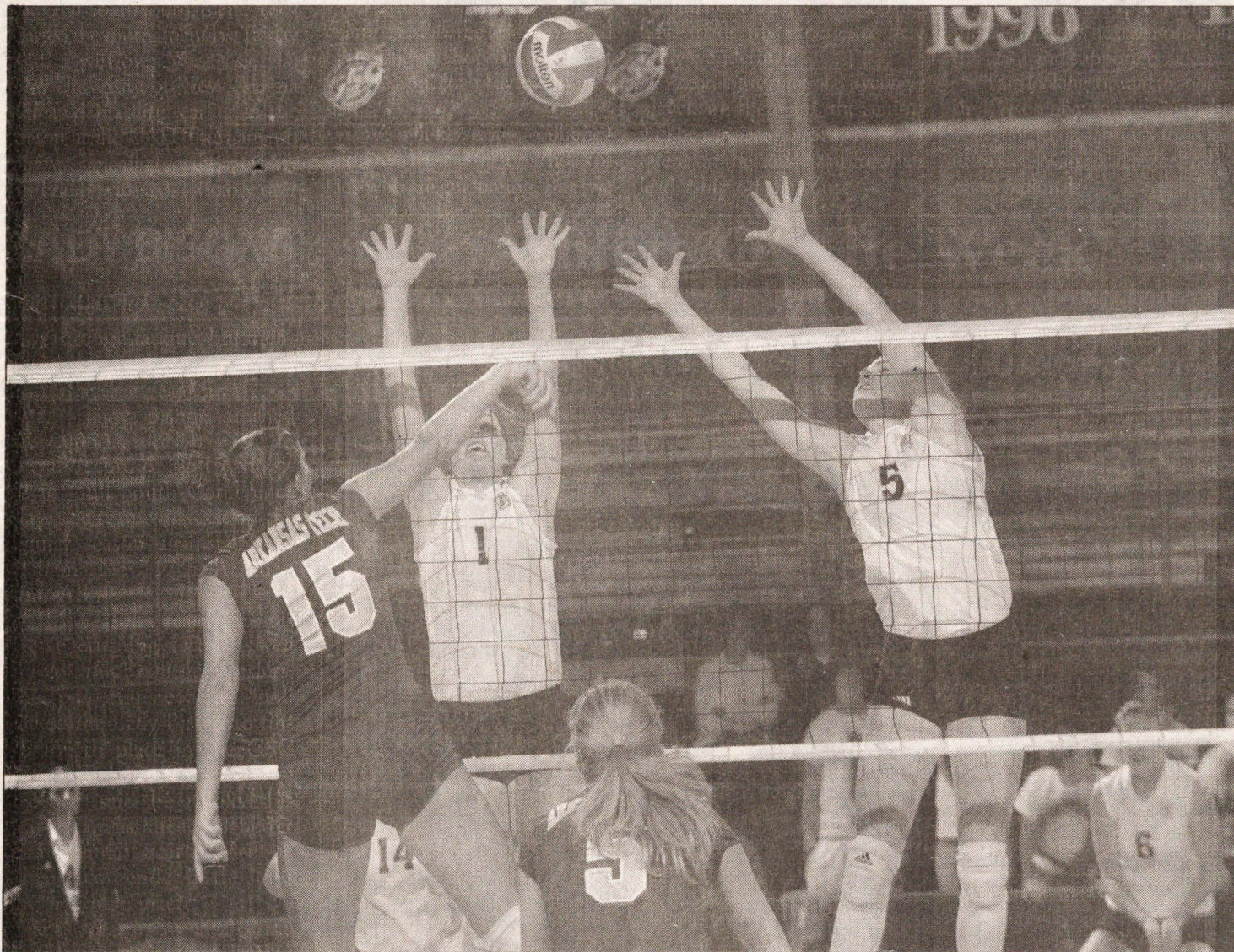
"I think the team will be a lot stronger this year; there's more depth coming off the bench," McMenemy said. "There are six returning players from last year and they have been good examples for the new girls. I think the team has really been playing well together and working hard. The weak point in the games so far has probably been learning to

see LADY BISONS page 2B



CRAIG RAINBOLT/The Bison

Junior guard Kinsey Tucker drives down the court at home last season. Returning starters include sophomore Catherine McMenemy, senior Chelsea McCarty, junior Jackie Fredendall, senior Jasmine McClindon and Tucker.



Sophomore setter Leah Tepe and senior blocker Katie Westmoreland block a kill against Arkansas Tech in the Lady Bisons' Oct. 24 3-0 win.

CRAIG RAINBOLT/The Bison

Lady Bisons End Conference Undefeated

J CLIFF GANUS
student reporter

The Harding University Lady Bison volleyball team finished the season with a fifth consecutive Gulf South West championship and second place in the Gulf South Conference.

After an undefeated regular season, the Lady Bisons earned a trip to Florence, Ala. to compete in the Gulf South tournament. They started the tournament last Friday with a win over West Georgia. The University of West Georgia defeated Harding earlier in the season at the UAH Tournament. However, Harding got their payback on Friday with a 3-1 victory over

the Wolves.

Saturday the Bisons met the University of West Florida on the court and had a clean 3-0 win. The team lost the championship to North Alabama on Saturday.

"We had a good season," junior Meredith Rosenbaum said. "It was successful, especially in conference. It is easy to just look at the ending, but overall we had a good season."

Despite the loss of the championship, the team remained optimistic and hopeful about next year's season, coach Keith Giboney said.

"We will be strong," Giboney said. "We have to fill some holes of kids who are graduating. But [we

will] return a good core of athletes, so I feel we will be competitive."

Three seniors will graduate this May, and last week's tournament marked the last game for the players. Katie Westmoreland, Tiffany Morrison and Paige Good all concluded their collegiate athletic careers.

"It was a great experience," Morrison said. "I have made friends for a lifetime. I am thankful for my teammates and my coach. They have made my experience here really wonderful."

According to some of the younger players on the team, the seniors will be missed, not only for their talent on the court, but for their leadership off the court.

"It's a very tough three spots to fill," Rosenbaum said. "We are going to expect a lot from the recruiting class from next year [with] big shoes to fill."

She said spending time with her team is an integral part of her life and she has never had a practice while she has been at Harding that at least two of the three seniors have not been on the team with her.

There are high expectations for the Lady Bisons next season, from the team and supporters alike.

"I am looking forward to another shot," Rosenbaum said. "Another year, another opportunity to go that extra step. Win conference and go on to nationals."

Football Prepares For Finale

AMANDA PRUITT
assistant editor

The national playoffs may be out of reach for the Harding Bison football team, but the season is not over yet.

The Bisons (6-3, 5-2 Gulf South Conference) snapped their five-game winning streak and dropped out of the regional top 10 following last week's 26-3 loss to Arkansas Tech. Harding wraps up its season tomorrow against the Ouachita Baptist Tigers at Arkadelphia, Ark. with kickoff at 1:30 p.m.

Despite falling out of postseason contention, the 2006 season is far from a failure. The Bisons notched their third straight winning season and second winning GSC record since joining the conference in 2000, not bad for a team that was picked to finish seventh in the GSC preseason poll.

"You always want to exceed what other people expect of you, and we felt like we had a chance to be a good football team," head coach Randy Tribble said. "Coming into the season we knew the expectations would not be as high for people on the outside since we lost so many seniors, nine on defense and seven on offense. We started off kind of slow, but when we got the streak going, that was what we expected."

Saturday's game marks not only the end of another football season, but the close of the careers of 13 senior Bisons.

"When you have guys in your program for four or five years, you become attached to them," Tribble said. "You really want them to go out with a win. They're really special to us and we appreciate all they've done for the program."

Ouachita Baptist (1-8, 0-7) has lost seven straight games. The Tigers allowed 41 unanswered points last Saturday to fall 48-28 to long-time rival Henderson State.

Harding has found good luck in recent years against Ouachita Baptist, winning 13 of the last 16 matchups. The Bisons concluded the 2005 football campaign with a 24-7 victory over the Tigers.

Tribble said a victory on Saturday would not only be a upbeat sendoff for the senior players, but a win would be a positive start to the months of recruiting and offseason practice as the Bisons prepare for 2007.

"We're excited by how many players we have coming back," Tribble said. "We want the returning players to feel good about themselves going into offseason and feel positive about next year."

Cross Country Sweeps Regionals

ASHTON REELY
student reporter

The Harding men and women's cross country teams claimed another regional title Nov. 5.

After the Bisons and Lady Bisons claimed the Gulf South Conference crown, the teams traveled to Memphis to defend their rank of No. 1 in the region and they did just that. The men sealed their seventh consecutive regional victory, while the women won for the second year in a row.

Head coach Steve Guymon said he was pleased with the Gulf South Conference victory as well as the way the teams competed at the regional level.

"That's the big thing is to try to win your conference," Guymon said. "There are 16 schools in our conference. You can only run seven girls and we had all seven in the top 10 of that meet."

The men had five runners earn First Team All-Conference and All-Region. Junior Julius Kosgei, junior Artur Kern, sophomore James Cheruiyot, junior Przemek Bobrowski and junior Matt Cregger earned both honors for the Bisons.

For the women, sophomore Janee Jones, junior Savita Chelimo, senior Jess Fisher, junior Kalina Szteyn and senior Mary Brown earned All-Region honors.

The season ends at Pensacola, Fla. Both teams will compete at the NCAA Division II National Meet on Nov. 18. The women are currently ranked fifth and the men ninth in the nation. Guymon said the top four is what the teams are aiming for this year.

"We're always shooting for the top four," Guymon said. "Traditionally,

the best teams are always the same three or four at the top. We are a little school poking our head in, but we should do pretty good."

Guymon said he admires the determination his athletes have had in preparing for the national meet.

"I am extremely proud of these kids," Guymon said. "I don't think anyone on this campus knows how hard they work and what they go through. To keep this string going that they've had is a big accomplishment."

Though the national meet will be a time of excitement, Guymon said losing six seniors causes the occasion to be bittersweet.

"I'm losing four girls and two guys," Guymon said. "They're special to me because they were my first recruiting class. It's like I told them, we've been watching them grow from basically little high school kids to being leaders of our program."

Seniors Tessa Davidson and Fisher said they will always cherish the memories they have made over the last four years.

"It's been one of the best things I've done in college," Davidson said. "I met my husband on the team and we've just grown as a group. We've been through a lot of hard things throughout the years, but I feel like we've grown a lot through them all."

Fisher said she has learned to be patient and the importance of never giving up.

"The past four years have been a lot of fun," Fisher said. "I will always remember the memories I made with my teammates and the trips we went on."

LADY BISONS

CONTINUED from page 1

play through fatigue, but mentally we're a much stronger team than last year."

The Lady Bisons finished the 2005-06 season with an overall record of 12-15 and 4-12 in Gulf South Conference play. The team will kick off the regular season against North Alabama Nov. 17 in Arkadelphia, Ark.

This season's team features all five returning starters as well as two junior college transfers. The preseason coaches' poll picked the Lady Bisons to finish fourth place in the GSC West Division.

Kirby said he thinks this year's team is already a better team than last year and will be a major contender in the Gulf South Conference.

"Last season we had some trouble finishing games," Kirby said. "A few of the games were close and we lost by just a few points, but I think we figured out the winning formula at the end of the season and I expect that momentum to carry over to this season."

The team's first home game will be Nov. 27 against Williams Baptist and will be one of three consecutive games played in the Rhodes Field House. The team will face off against York on Dec. 1 and Alabama-Huntsville on Dec. 2.

Athlete Of The Week



CRAIG RAINBOLT/The Bison

Leah Tepe

- 5'7" Sophomore from Germantown, Tenn.
- Named to Daktronics All-South Central Region Team
- Led GSC with 13.64 assists per game

www.harding.edu/thebison

Your dad will love getting a bill from us because he will know that we took good care of you.

R_x MEDICAL CENTER PHARMACY

Locations:

Searcy Medical Center & Medical Center West
268-3311 268-3456



(And you didn't have to worry about the money!)



HARDING PRESS
SERVING THE UNIVERSITY WITH QUALITY PRINTING FOR OVER 50 YEARS!

600 South Remington • Searcy, Arkansas • (501) 279-4341

CALL
EXT. 4341

Or Come By:

600 S. Remington

located in the Lott R. Tucker
Physical Resources Building
(South of Main Campus)

Printing for all your Wedding Needs

LET US HELP MAKE YOUR SPECIAL DAY MEMORABLE!

10% Discount for all Harding Students & Staff

Harding Squirrels



AMANDA PRUITT/The Bison

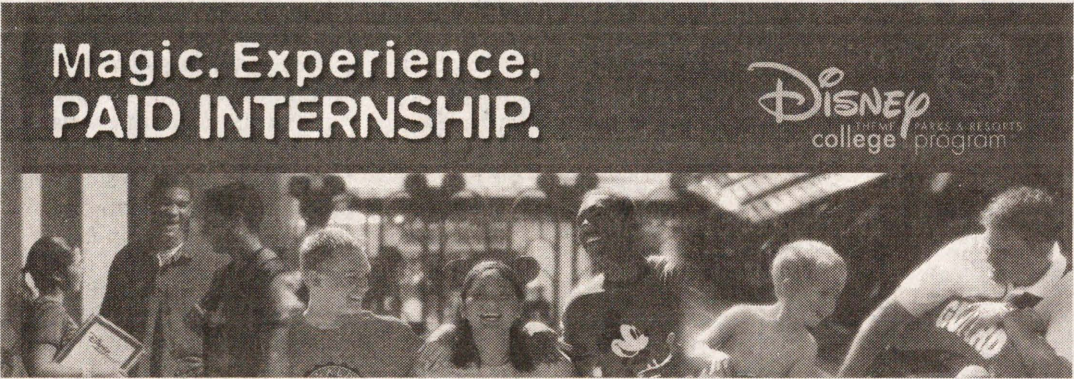
Top 10 Things to Do Over Thanksgiving Break

- 10. Finally get the months worth of laundry done.
- 9. Get parents to pay for the 10 movies you've been wanting to see but didn't have any cash.
- 8. See old friends you haven't seen since the summer.
- 7. Secretly watch the entire Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade
- 6. Watch football for days at a time, or go outside and actually play it.
- 5. Finally get to the last level in Halo.
- 4. Get up really early Friday to catch the early-bird sales.
- 3. Dust off the Christmas decorations and put up the tree.
- 2. Catch up on much, much needed sleep.
- 1. Eat lots of turkey and Thanksgiving classics!

Cryptique

“GPQVCA QCC HPG DQG WFQGB
QBKPVWJFA, LMF JO ATM EQGF FT FPWF Q
HQG’W DZQVQDFPV, NJKP ZJH YTEPV.”
Q equals A

Difficulty



Are you a college student who is looking for:

- A paid internship opportunity that will stand out on a resume?
- A custom-designed learning curriculum that could earn you college credit?
- A chance to gain experience with a world-renowned company and gain transferable skills?
- An opportunity to meet people from around the world, make lifelong friends, and have fun?

As a part of the Disney College Program at the Walt Disney World® Resort near Orlando, FL participants can experience an internship of a lifetime. Visit our Web site and discover why the Disney College Program is an opportunity you just can't miss!

Viewing a presentation is required to be eligible for an interview. Log onto our Web site to view our presentation schedule and find out when we will be on a campus near you! Scheduling conflict? Log on and view our online E-Presentation <http://wdwcollegeprogramcard.com/epresentation/>

EOE • Drawing Creativity from Diversity • ©Disney060525701



disneycollegeprogram.com

Dream it. Do it. Disney.

‘Killer’ Album Defies Critics’ Poor Reviews

ZACH FONVILLE
student reporter

Baised reviewers are the worst. The ones who come in with a preconceived notion of whether an album will be good or bad without really listening to it make the whole experience awkward for everyone. I'm guilty of this. I'm sure everyone has been guilty of this at some point if they've been involved with reviewing music — either with their friends or for a semi-formal student newspaper. I am going to try to keep my bias to a minimum on this one and be as objective as possible. We'll see if it lasts more than two paragraphs.

To be completely honest, my introduction to The Killers was probably typical. I heard “Mr. Brightside” and “Somebody Told Me” on mainstream radio years ago and was pleasantly surprised. Then they started getting really popular. Then they quickly came to stand for everything that was wrong with independent music going mainstream: They became archetypal sell-outs and charlatans. I considered them sadly derivative of the new- and dark-wave 80s and early 90s bands I really enjoyed. I could wholeheartedly get behind similarly new acts like Bloc Party and Stelastarr, but not The Killers. The Killers just had too much money behind them. That didn't change the fact that I thoroughly enjoyed “Hot Fuss” and snuck frequent listens when nobody was looking. I just couldn't admit that I enjoyed them. Not to anyone I wanted to retain my quasi-knowledgeable elitist independent music snob aura with, at least. It's the same reason I never looked twice at the second or third Evanescence albums. I wasn't expecting to pick up the Killers' second

album either. I read some reviews online when it was first released that panned it terribly with viler words than I can print in this space. These confirmed my suspicions that “Sam's Town” wasn't worth picking up.

Then I heard it. My first impulse was to note that they have matured musically since their “Hot Fuss” days. They have not changed in any major way stylistically, but there is a definite shift from the strictly formulaic song structure on “Hot Fuss.” Whereas they used to build the same repetitive background track throughout the entire song with often repetitive, albeit catchy, vocals, they now approach their songs with more confidence and take more pride in the craftsmanship of this album. I'm not sure how much of that is because of the highly professional production, mastered by Flood and Alan Moulder, but there is a noticeable difference. The vocals take more risks, and the instruments, while not groundbreaking or earth-shattering, are appropriately more layered and complex. I knew immediately that it was The Killers — it had to be The Killers — but, again, I was pleasantly surprised.

Then I heard it again. And again. I will refrain from calling this a cornerstone album. It's really not. It's not going to hold up to years of scrutiny, and in 10 years it will feel dated and old. In four years it will only be making occasional appearances in my playlist. But right now it is, and has been, on constant rotation on the computer as I do my work. I don't think it's leaving there until I get thoroughly sick of it. I can't guarantee how long that will take, but my guess is at least two months. It's more than a pleasant diversion. It's actually

“I will refrain from calling this a cornerstone album. It's really not. It's not going to hold up to years of scrutiny, and in 10 years it will feel dated and old. In four years it will only be making occasional appearances in my playlist.”

ally quite good. It's definitely worth the purchase.

After about the third listen it becomes clear that the charm of this album is its rawness. The off-pitch straining as frontman Brandon Flowers tries almost successfully to reach notes just outside his range. The fuzz that develops as more and more instruments pile on and then fade back. It's like the transition from “The Blue Album” to “Pinkerton” on a smaller scale. Stand-out tracks are definitely “Sam's Town,” “When You Were Young,” “Bones” and “The River is Wild.” The bookends of “Enterlude” and “Exitlude” add a slightly contrived but endearing twist. The album seems shorter than it actually is, clocking in at 44 minutes, but seeming like 20 or 30 max. I would attribute that to its ability to both keep you moving yet fade out. It's not an album that absorbs you. It exists alongside you and joins you for whatever you're up to. For those of you confused about my review and whether it's positive or negative, it's positive. Definitely positive. This is worth purchasing.

The Killers could go two ways from here. They could either progress along these rawer and more experimental lines on their next album, bringing in more of the Las Vegas grit and diverging more from their disco-electronica past. This is the way I would prefer to see them go. The second would be to go back to the pop of their first album, a-la Weezer, which would be a mistake.

Brain Stimulators

Sudoku

9	6		8				2	
	1		4	2			6	
2	4						3	9
7			6					
	5				7			
	8	9	3				5	2
		6	7			1		
					8	2	9	6
		3	2		5	8	4	

Difficulty

Answers found on page 4b

Tell us what you think!
Game suggestions or comments may be submitted to thebison@harding.edu

www.thebison.com

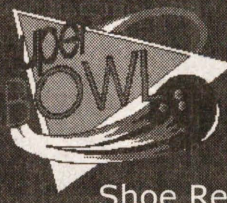


Student Discount
One-Topping Pizzas
Medium \$5 Large \$6.15

268-9000

Carryout or Delivery

Free Delivery: Sunday-Thursday until **Midnight**
Friday & Saturday until **1 a.m.**



FREE
Shoe Rental for
all Harding Students

825 S. Main
Searcy, AR

501.279.9352

On a COLD day,
nothing sounds better than a

HOT cup of Coffee
& a WARM Atmosphere.

Midnight Oil
— Coffeehouse —



Dreamworks' Movie Flushes Doubts

JORDAN DYNEWSKI
student reporter

Humor abounds as rats take on the London sewage system in Dreamworks' newest onscreen creation, "Flushed Away."

This computer-generated feature follows the journey of Roddy, a domesticated pet rat of an upper class London family, as he stumbles into the deepest levels of the sewage underworld and attempts to find his way home. At the beginning of the movie, Roddy awakens to find that his owners have left for vacation, leaving him alone in their grandiose house. However, his thought of rest and relaxation are soon disturbed as Sid, a

sewer rat, comes spewing out of the sink and inevitably disrupts Roddy's plans.

After finding that he is lost in foreign waste lands, Roddy meets up with Rita, a treasure scavenger who is in search of some valuable gems belonging to her family. After initially bumping heads, the two rats decide they can benefit from becoming allies and the story develops. Along the way, the villains, played by Mafia-like rats with a toad as their so-called "godfather," try to capture Rita and prevent Roddy from ever returning home. Along their travels, Roddy begins to understand and feel the importance of family and friends, and his once-pompous attitude is softened.

However, without giv-

ing away the ending, it is safe to say that by the time the credits begin rolling, Rita and Roddy have not been turned into rat patties.

While some might argue that "if you've seen one animated movie, you've seen them all," this particular flick is slightly different. Never before has an animated feature made such great use of the saying "what is one man's trash is another man's treasure." As Roddy travels deeper into the underground, Dreamworks is very innovative in creating a vividly detailed rat city. Complete with used food cans, paper clips and just about every other odd item you might think of, this city boasts being well advanced into the 21st century

with large, flat screen televisions.

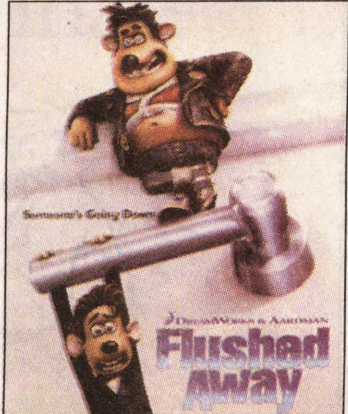
Dreamworks was able to put together quite a team of A-list celebrities to be the team of voices behind their septic creatures: Hugh Jackman took on the role of Roddy, Kate Winslet brought life to Rita and Ian McKellen from, "X-Men: The Last Stand" and "The Da Vinci Code," was the voice of The Toad, the leader of the villains.

However, the Oscar for best supporting actor should be given to the group of sewer slugs that were constantly popping up throughout the entire film adding in songs, the necessary and sometimes unnecessary sound effects and other bits of humor. In fact,

they sang so much, this film could probably be classified as a musical. From original scores to classic hits from Tom Jones and other artists, this movie kept my foot thumping.

While there were countless one-liners which added humor to the story, one of the funniest lines came as Roddy was first traveling through the toilet pipes. As he was descending into the underground, Roddy passed a goldfish in the toilet who asked, "Have you seen my father?"

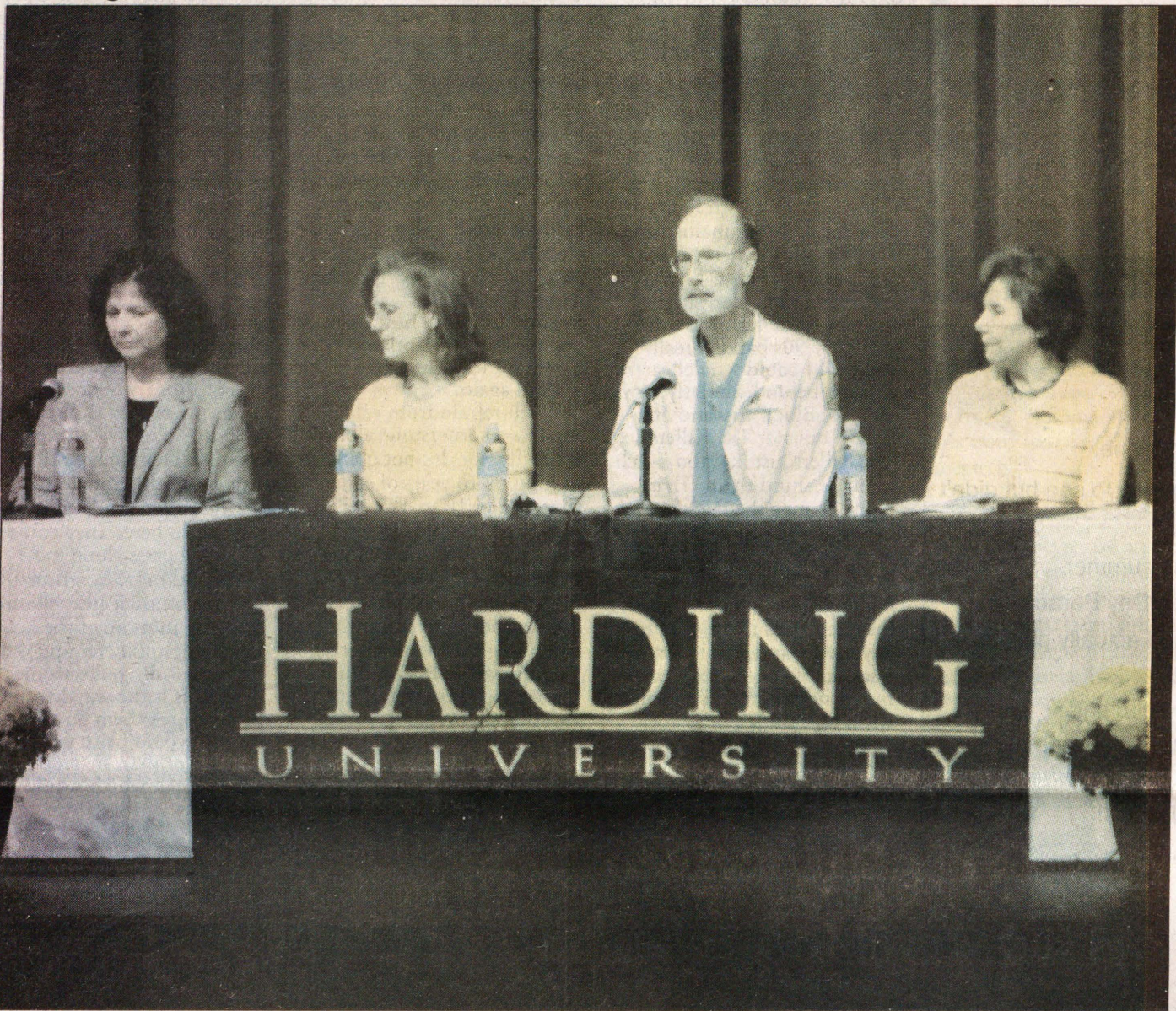
Dreamworks, the studio also responsible for 2005's "Madagascar" as well as the recent flick "Over the Hedge," held up its reputation with this new feature film. No other animated feature has ever



made rats look so innocent.

And while this movie does take place a majority of the time in the sewers and even the tagline of the film says, "Something's going down," this feature will certainly not leave you down in the dumps.

Eating Disorder Awareness Panel



Suzanne Casey, therapist, Lisa Ritchie, dietician, Richard Duke, physician and Sherry Pollard, counselor, sit on the eating disorder panel Nov. 6 informing the student body of the dangers of the disease. The panel discussion was open to students, faculty and the public for free to answer any questions people had about eating disorders and how to get help themselves or help someone they knew.



Stuffed Full Of Thanksgiving Nonsense

While I do my weekly grocery shopping, (if you can call cereal and five-minute meals grocery shopping), I find my cart veering over to the seasonal aisle in anticipation of finding the Christmas décor and cleverly holiday-wrapped candy. At the end of the aisle are the clearance Halloween items, and in between that and Christmas merchandise are few turkey-related things. This is the key indicator telling me Christmas is not out of reach, but there is still one more holiday to get through until then — Thanksgiving.

I'm not entirely sure how I feel about Thanksgiving. Why be thankful for just one day? Are people implying we can be ungrateful for the other 364 days of the year? It does, however, fall under a good month of the year; my birthday precedes it by a few days, so generally I'm on a sugar high from cake and ice cream and really couldn't care less if there is no significant event or reasoning for Thanksgiving. For those that can't relate with me on this, I just don't know the appeal of this holiday. OK, I realize the historical significance behind it, but how many people truly take the time to sit down and thank the pilgrims for sailing to the new world? How about the Native Americans for that matter? Did we even have a peaceful meal with them or is it a fabricated tale we heard sitting on carpet squares during story time?

"I don't despise all Thanksgiving foods, just the bland ones that remind me of a cafeteria-style restaurant where the dessert of the day is Jell-O."

throws me over the edge. I do, however, enjoy sweet potato casserole and shoepeg corn — a concoction of corn, melted cream cheese and butter, truly the best corn I have ever tasted, probably because there is no nutritional value at all. That's neither here nor there. The point is, the few items I do enjoy aren't enough to motivate me to slave away in the kitchen for hours, sometimes days, for a 30-minute meal to be picked at and barely eaten.

While I still struggle to find the purpose in this holiday, there are a few upsides to it. First of all, we get a week of vacation, or as I like to look at it, I finally get to have a full night of sleep. I will get a real meal after three months of microwave substitutes and I will actually have a chance to sit down and catch up on my homework, or continue to neglect it, depending on my mood.

The second point is it gets my family in one place at one time. Usually, if one person has a free moment from his/her work schedule, someone else will be held up for another five weeks gallivanting around the country. It's almost sad that the government has to make a national holiday for families to be able to stop and take a day to spend time with one another, but I suppose that's the nature of the fast-paced society. The third and cheesiest of my upsides is the parade. Now, I will admit that after you've seen one float, you've seen them all, but until I have seen that rent-a-Santa in his Macy's sleigh, I don't really feel like the Christmas season has begun. It's goofy, and at many times boring, but I still get a kick out of it.

I may never understand why some can watch football for an entire day without moving or why others can stuff themselves with turkey for weeks after and still have room for it when Christmas rolls around. Point or no point, I do know that I get to watch old movies with my mom and put up Christmas decorations the day after Thanksgiving. I like to look at it as the transitional holiday. There are no more goblins or ghosts, only thick jolly guys in red suits and people strolling down the street with a goofy grin for no apparent reason. So whatever your reasoning may be for one of the most random holidays, I say Happy Thanksgiving. It's almost Christmas break.

This Week In History

- Nov. 6**
- (1789) John Carroll named first Catholic bishop in United States
 - (1899) First Packard is completed
 - (1962) United Nations condemns apartheid
- Nov. 7**
- (1944) FDR wins unprecedented fourth term
 - (1951) Ava Gardner and Frank Sinatra marry
 - (1991) Magic Johnson announces he is HIV positive
- Nov. 8**
- (1880) Sarah Bernhardt debuts in New York
 - (1895) German scientist, Wilhelm Conrad Rontgen discovers x-rays
 - (1939) Hitler survives assassination attempt
 - (1960) John F. Kennedy elected president
- Nov. 9**
- (1938) Nazis launch Kristallnacht
 - (1965) The Great Northeast Blackout
 - (1989) East Germany opens the Berlin Wall
- Nov. 10**
- (1928) Hirohito crowned in Japan
 - (1931) Lionel Barrymore wins an Oscar
 - (1969) Sesame Street debuts
- Nov. 11**
- (1918) World War I ends

Answers from page 3b

Sudoku

7	4	8	5	6	2	3	9	1
6	9	2	8	3	1	4	7	5
5	3	1	4	9	7	6	2	8
2	5	7	1	4	3	9	8	6
3	1	6	7	8	9	2	5	4
4	8	9	2	5	9	1	3	7
9	7	3	6	1	5	8	4	2
8	6	5	9	2	4	7	1	3
1	2	4	3	7	8	5	6	9

Cryptique

“NEARLY ALL MEN CAN STAND
ADVERSITY, BUT IF YOU WANT
TO TEST A MAN'S CHARACTER,
GIVE HIM POWER.”
-Abraham Lincoln